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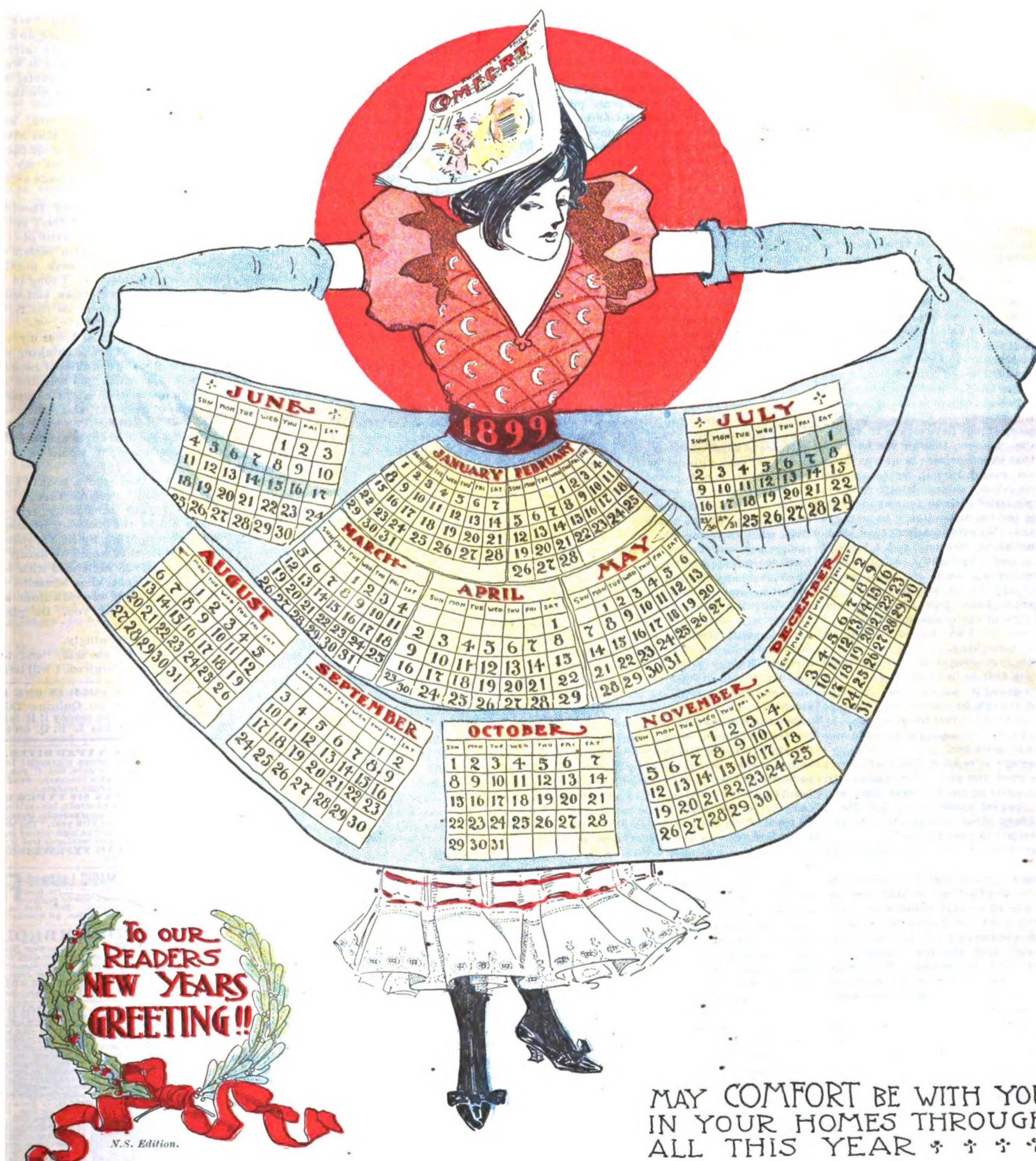
COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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ALL THIS YEAR ♫ ♫ ♫



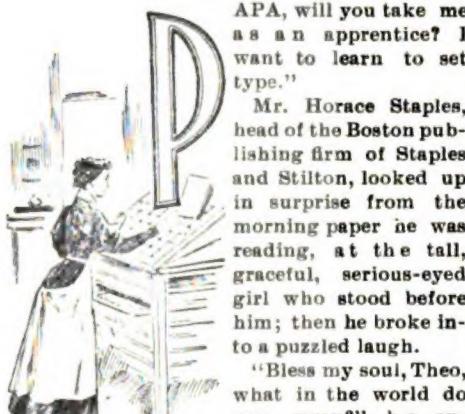
PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY.

Sara A. Underwood, First Prize.
Harriet W. Seaver, Second Prize.
Guy E. Mitchell, Third Prize.
Juliette M. Babbitt, Fourth Prize.
Aubertine W. Moore, Fifth Prize.

THE ODD ONE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARA A. UNDERWOOD.

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APA, will you take me as an apprentice? I want to learn to set type."

Mr. Horace Staples, head of the Boston publishing firm of Staples and Stilton, looked up in surprise from the morning paper he was reading, at the tall, graceful, serious-eyed girl who stood before him; then he broke into a puzzled laugh.

"Bless my soul, Theo, what in the world do you mean?" he exclaimed.

"Just what I say, papa, I want to be a printer. I have been thinking about it seriously for a week, and I have decided to have that sweet-looking woman who works at the case near the desk in the upper room to teach me, if she will."

"Upon my word, Theo, you grow odder and odder," said her father looking at her curiously. "Wh- don't you act sensibly like your sisters and not annoy us all by breaking out into such unexpected fads."

The girl stood with her head thrown slightly back, her hands clasped behind her, a soft pink flush on her fair face and a far away look in her large, dreamy, brown eyes as she replied.

"A great many things have set me to thinking lately papa. I know, though you have not said much, that your business is not as prosperous as you would like it to be, or you wouldn't have taken a partner lately. And you have three unmarried girls on your hands. I am twenty-three and am not so likely to marry as Rose and Anna. My brothers don't take kindly to the publishing business, and I know I should like it, and I thought I might begin with type-setting and learn all branches so that in time I may be of assistance to you. Besides, I want to know how life looks from the point of view of the common workman. I hate the useless life I am forced to lead. I just long to do something."

And now her eyes sought his with a tense imperative look that he had come to know well as implying a mood it was useless to argue against. But though he was touched by the tender, unexpected thoughtfulness evinced by her reference to his business, yet he made one more attempt to move her.

"If it's a career you're after, Theo, why don't you take the good the gods offer, marry Mr. Bernard, and enter upon a career that any other girl in your set would glory in? He is rich, of the bluest blood, and as his wife you could sway society to your liking."

Theo's beautifully curved lips curled with contempt.

"Mr. Bernard! you would like me to be chained to Golden Calf rather than see me living a true life of helpful beneficence! Oh, papa, if his blood is 'blue' it must be because it has been frozen to the point of blueness. Sway society through that soulless animal! I'd rather marry your stable-boy. No, I must meet life face to face. If you won't let me go into your establishment, then I shall apply somewhere else."

"Theo, you try me so," her father cried, "suppose I yield, what would your sisters say, what would my employees say, what would society say?"

The gold-crowned head gave a little toss, the Grecian nostrils slightly quivered, a defiant smile crept into lips and eyes.

"Why, papa," she said. "What can they say but that I'm the 'odd one' of the family? Do let me live up to my reputation!"

"Well, go along and talk it over with your mother, child," said Mr. Staples resignedly returning to his paper, "and I'll see about it."

Yes, Theodora Staples was and had been from childhood decidedly "odd." Her two brothers older than herself, and two younger sisters comprised the family. The young men had studied respectively medicine and law and were now slowly getting into practice. Their

sisters Rose and Anna, were two rather pretty lively girls of twenty and eighteen. All these went along in the recognized lines of the society in which they moved. With Theodora, the eldest daughter and beauty of the family it was decidedly different. In her childhood she exhibited queer traits of character. She was given to going away by herself, sitting for hours in a state of dreamy reverie, with a happy smile on her lips and a far away look in her large eyes. She resented interruption at such times and afterwards told her parents strange fairy-like tales of what she had seen and heard. But after she had been punished several times for this inclination to romancing, she no longer indulged her imagination in this way, at least there was no further recital of her visions. She was apt too, to stop in the midst of her play, turn her head in a direction where there was no person visible, as though listening, then make some irrelevant remark; but this passed away with her childhood, and the fears for her sanity entertained by her worried parents partly wore away also, since in her bright moods no one could be more charming or reasonable.

But all through her childhood, and even since attaining maturity, she was inclined to do and say the most unexpected things. Her brothers were seriously annoyed by this and her sisters more often amused. "Oh, it's only one of Theo's oddities!" her lively sister Rose would explain to some puzzled visitor. "She's the salt that savor the commonplace of our lives." To her father she was a puzzle, but to her invalid mother she was a comfort and joy. Who brought so much sunshine into the sick room as Theo? Whose step was so soft, whose hand so deft, whose presence made the evenings when Mr. Staples was deep in business problems, and her younger daughters absent at party or theater, times of sacred soul communion, reading to her from Emerson, the Brownings and others, or from some wise magazine essayist bits of gold from mints of truth, which led to long conversations between mother and daughter that drew them both into higher intellectual and spiritual altitudes, albeit she could not always follow Theo's daring leadership into rare atmospheres.

One of the oddities which gave most offense to her brothers, which even worried her mother, and against which her sisters most strongly protested, was the utter unreasonableness as well as strength of her attractions and antipathies for persons. And indeed it was not pleasant for her brothers when they brought home a gentleman friend whom they highly honored, to find his introduction to their beautiful sister met on her part with cool hauteur; or at parties given in their own home to find Theo made conspicuous by her absence, simply because she "could not endure" the presence of some of the invited guests. When her father gave a dinner party it was not always that he could prevail upon his eldest daughter to take her invalid mother's place at the table. Rose had of late come to be the one relied upon to do the honors of such occasions. Even when traveling she was very likely to change her seat unceremoniously because it made her unhappy to be in near proximity to often personally unknown fellow travelers. On the other hand she would evince a strong attachment to some servant or dependent of the family; while often she would enter into conversation with strangers who took her fancy on street car or railway. Still there was always a certain dignity in all she said and did, which repelled familiarity on the part of those she liked and which prevented those with whom she had no affiliation from quite hating her.

She was now twenty-three and strangely, so her family thought, so far had shown no inclination to listen favorably to any one of the many eligible young men who would fain have wooed her favor. Despite the striking beauty and the pleasing manners which became her so well when in the mood, there was no trace of coquetry or approach to flirtation about her. She became ice at once with each would-be wooer so soon as words or actions intimated his hope.

And now here she was in one of her perverse moods demanding permission to learn a trade, and such dirty trade! But her father knew from many earlier experiences with this odd child of his that she would never rest satisfied until she had tried this new experiment, as their family doctor, when consulted as to her strange, childish freaks, had warned the parents to beware of too strongly crossing the will of this wayward one, with dark hints of possible insanity if her whims were opposed. But what a trial such oddity was in a girl so lovely and generally so lovable!

As foreseen, Theo had her way, and a few weeks later found her promoted to a case of her own in one of the rooms where mainly women printers were employed. She had really shown remarkable aptness in learning to set type, and as the quiet widow whom she had chosen as her teacher informed her, gave promise of becoming an expert if she kept at it long enough. She had taken to it with real enthusiasm and she made a striking picture dressed in a high-necked apron of dark stuff to protect her black dress, her cheeks flushed with interest, and a pretty frown between her eyebrows as she bent over the stick of type in her hand while she consulted with rapid glance the next word in the copy. At least so thought

Mr. Ambrose Stilton, recently taken into the house as a partner, but whom Theo had not met before her type-setting mania had taken possession of her.

But Theo had entered upon this experiment with a serious purpose in view. She wanted really to know the lives of working girls, with a hope to be of help to them. So at the noon hour, and at other leisure times, she cultivated the acquaintance of such girls as seemed most interesting to her, leading them to talk of themselves until she won from them a most affectionate yet respectful place in their hearts.

All unsuspected by herself she had also won the passionate admiration of her father's partner. But Ambrose Stilton was too wise to commit himself in any way until he felt somewhat sure of his ground, especially with one who had the reputation of "the odd one." That oddity in her only made her all the more attractive to the very strong willed young man who delighted in overcoming obstacles of whatsoever nature.

In his official capacity he had opportunities for addressing her which otherwise would not have been possible. As for Theo, she decided at once that Mr. Stilton was one of her antipathies, and when her father introduced her she greeted him in her haughtiest manner, with a little nod of indifference. But this repulsion gradually disappeared and she soon found him rather agreeable.

Ambrose Stilton was tall, broad-shouldered, a good figure, suave, alert and wide awake in manner, dark skinned almost as a Spaniard, with close cropped black hair, shining black eyes, Roman nose and well-shaped mouth, half concealed by a carefully trimmed mustache. He was a man whom most girls would think very attractive, but a student of physiognomy would have detected about the mouth hard and cruel lines, inflexible strength of will in the curves of the jaws, shifty, treacherous lights in the piercing eyes. Something of this Theo felt and she avoided much conversation outside of business matters.

Her father had taken her all over the establishment when she first entered. On the floor below the one where she worked, the book printing was done, presided over by a young foreman, Oliver Norman, whose quiet dignity of manner, dark blue melancholy eyes and Greek profile had arrested Theo's attention as, at her father's desire he explained some of the working of the machinery. He seemed about twenty-five.

"Isn't he rather young, papa," asked Theo, as they proceeded to other portions of the building, "to have charge of so many people, many of them older than himself?"

"Yes," replied her father, "he does seem young, but he is quite a genius in his way. He comes of a family that have seen 'better days,' as the saying is, and when he was obliged to leave college at seventeen, he chose to learn the printer's trade. He went into it with enthusiasm too. There isn't any part of the printing and publishing business which he doesn't understand, so that he is really more proficient than most men twice his age. He has also considerable mechanical skill. He is at work now on an invention which he thinks will be a great improvement in one part of our press machinery. I have partitioned off a corner in the office on that floor where he can work at odd times on his model. If it's what he represents, it may bring him a pretty income when he gets it patented."

"Oh, papa," cried the deeply interested Theo, "why in the world didn't you take him into partnership instead of Mr. Stilton?"

"Because, my dear, the business needed money and push more than brains or knowledge of the business. I have secured both in Mr. Stilton, who would not be able to fill Norman's place in the direct management of such a happy-go-lucky set of printers as we have. For all his quiet way Norman gets more work out of them than any man we have ever had in his place."

Though Oliver Norman's business brought him frequently into the department where Theo worked, he never seemed to note her presence nor that of any of the working women save as workers, and it was two months after her entrance upon her new life before he spoke to her. It came about in this way.

Theo's own individuality was, to herself, a profound mystery. With the exception of her mother the members of her family were prosaic, "correct" personalities. Her own repressed self which broke forth ever and anon into emphatic expressions, seemed so often to perplex or horrify her relatives, that she unceasingly wondered why she was so different from them. But her knowledge that the thoughts she longed to share with others in regard to the mysteries of being, would be met with troubled stares and uncomprehending replies, had caused her to seek to conceal her real self more and more as she grew older.

Staples & Stilton, in addition to book publishing, did the printing for various periodicals. In this department Theo's first work was done, and one day she became deeply interested in some copy given her for one of these which dealt with some of the questions which had so haunted her mind; its title was "Psychic Mysteries," and in it she found allusion to many of the so-called illusions which had been hers in childhood and to others that still

worried her at times. It was delightful to know that others beside herself had had the same experiences, the causes of which the writer seemed desirous of solving; explaining the various theories offered by the society for Psychical Research and adding a mere hint of his own. The last two or three pages had been given to another girl, but so soon as the article was complete she sought out the "galleys" containing it, and was deeply surprised to find there the name "Oliver Norman." She recalled that her father had mentioned the fact of his contributing occasional articles to journals and she wondered much if this article was written by him.

The next day as he passed she felt a strong impulse to speak to him, but while she restrained herself from actually doing so, her imperious inner self called instinctively, though silently, "Oliver Norman! Oliver Norman! speak to me!"

As he drew near his pace involuntarily slackened, he turned toward her with a puzzled look, passed onward a step or two, then came to her side.

"Excuse me Miss Staples," he stammered. "Did you speak to me?"

Theo blushed furiously as she raised her serious brown eyes to the earnest sea-blue pair gazing down upon her.

"No, Mr. Norman," she replied, "I did not speak your name but I was thinking it very strongly and wishing much to ask you a question. Yesterday I was setting up an article for the Phoenix Magazine which interested me so much that I read it all after it was in proof. The name signed to it was yours, and I would like to be sure that you are the writer of "Psychic Mysteries."

His eyes brightened. "Oh, are you interested in that question, Miss Staples? I am so glad to hear it. Yes, I wrote the article but I did not venture to express my own views very strongly. Have you made a special study of it, may I ask?"

"Oh, dear, no," confessed Theo, feeling now very much at her ease, "I don't know anything about these theories you write of—I only know that they harmonize with certain facts of my own existence which have puzzled me and chagrined my relatives. I long to know more of this subject Mr. Norman, and will be greatly obliged to you to set me on the right track to gain knowledge on it."

"Why, Miss Staples, it was my own few experiences that set me to thinking on the subject. I will make out a list of books by writers new and old which you will find serviceable. I am now writing a book myself on the problems of telepathy and clairvoyance and I would be profoundly obliged if sometime you would be good enough to tell me of some of your experiences; it would be so helpful to me."

"What! to put into a book? I couldn't do that you know," declared Theo.

"Not if your personality were concealed! and to aid in the discovery of the true laws which govern Mind, Spirit, the intelligence of the universe—that which we hardly yet know how to name?" he exclaimed with enthusiasm. Then suddenly checking himself—"O, pardon me Miss Staples, it was ridiculous and impertinent in me to ask you. Do please forgive me!"

Theo smiled charmingly.

"I understand," she said, "and to prove to you that you are forgiven, I will tell you now

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one phase of my experience. I seem to know instantly with most persons I meet for the first time, whether I can trust to their intuitions to understand me when I speak to them frankly, and of my own inmost self, without attempting to conform to the standards of conventionality. To those towards whom I take an instant antipathy I am a sealed book. Other types alternately win and repel me. Still others I feel an absolute indifference toward; they bore but do not cause antagonism. Now, I feel I could trust you as one of the first mentioned. Otherwise I would not have spoken to you of the peculiarities which make me the *odd one* in my family. Your article offered me the first clue to the mysteries of my own mind, and I could not help saying what I did!"

His eyes sought hers frankly, sympathetically, comprehendingly.

"I sometimes think," he said gently, "that if we could all act directly from such intuitions, we should really make fewer mistakes than we do when guided by the formal laws of society, in our social intercourse with each other. I am sure your intuitive knowledge makes it unnecessary for me to say that your words will not be repeated. May I bring you the list of books to-morrow?"

"If you will be so kind," and she turned hastily to her half-filled stick and neglected copy.

This was the beginning of a new life of thought for Theo. She procured the books suggested by Norman. In these she found reported cases analogous to her own childish experiences; these she read to her parents who thus became interested in the subject, and at Mr. Staples' suggestion Oliver Norman was invited to the house to explain his theories as to thought transference, etc., to them. This led to further calls when a few intimate friends were invited to be present and experiments were made in various directions of Psychical phenomena. Rose and Anna and some of their young friends thought it great fun at first; especially when they found it possible occasionally to guess correctly the thought of others present. But their enthusiasm died out, and soon the experiments were only pursued by Theo and Mr. Norman, who found themselves capable of reading each other's thoughts when definite things were clearly fixed in one mind and the other was in receptive mood.

So, although Norman never called at her house unless he was requested to do so for some experiment, yet a sort of intimacy was established between Theo and himself—an intimacy which was strengthened by Norman's services in her lately begun work among working women. She had, with the help of some of the women printers in her father's employ, started a Working-Women's Club for the benefit of all who earned their living by daily labor. In this club she would only accept the office of secretary, as that called for real service. The president's office was filled by one of the brightest members, the forewoman of a cloak-making establishment. As Norman had considerable experience in the formation of societies of working men, he was glad to be of use in suggesting forms for constitution, bylaws, resolutions, etc., and advising as to the study of parliamentary forms in conducting their meetings.

At first Mr. Staples had looked with suspicious disfavor upon Theo's friendliness toward Oliver Norman, but after spending two or three evenings with them, and observing Theo's unconscious attitude of social superiority, and Norman's evident absorption in his finely spun theories, he ceased to be alarmed.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Blaze of the Vulture's Eye.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET W. SEAVER.

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WAS a girl eighteen years old then, just home from school, waiting around (all the villagers said) for my step-father to die and leave to me, the only relative,—his estate and fortune which amounted to a goodly sum in those days.

Some said I could not get along agreeably with my step-father, others went even further, explaining, as a cause for our disagreement, that I had a love affair while away at school which he was trying to break up—but that's another story. The facts were, we were not congenial, as is too frequently the case, and during my three years' absence on the continent, he had made the acquaintance of a young aristocrat of an adjoining estate and had resolved, when I had completed my studies, we should marry, which was

for many reasons distasteful to me. So during my unfrequent visits home there was continual argument and very rarely I returned to school without some severe and even threatening talk which resulted in a vow that I should never go home again. However, as each vacation came I had forgotten (or tried to forget) the previous storms, and was only too glad to return again to the quiet restful country existence.

On this especial afternoon a ragged, dirty-looking individual shambled up the avenue and being the only one in sight, he asked me for a drink of water; after having made way with half of it he began to unload from his shoulders a huge bundle and proceeded as all peddlers do to exhibit his wares. Though I had nothing in particular to do, I did not want to be bothered with examining his array of useless trinkets and while I was shaking my head and expostulating I noticed he dropped accidentally into the half glass of water, what appeared to be smooth, round greyish colored stone, and the next moment the whole tumbler was illuminated with a brilliant red light.

Immediately I inquired what sort of a thing it was, but he knew scarcely more about it than did I, except that a few months before, when he was a minor servant in the German court, one of the maids had said it was some little heir-loom and had given it to him, saying "as long as this remains as it is you will know I am constant."

The peddler was as amazed as I at the sudden change in the stone—and believing then in the unconstancy of his love, he angrily threw it into the hedge and muttering to himself picked up his traps and went his way.

A few days later father found the little thing and after amusing ourselves with watching it blaze for awhile he put it into his pocket and the incident entirely slipped my memory, until a short time after it was brought to my mind, by this article in one of our papers:

"Body of a man, probably a German peddler found on the road between A—and B—. Death due to heart failure."

Sultry August passed and then September much in the same way as all my vacations went. I was either left entirely to myself or else continually nagged and stormed at by my poor gouty old father, and the day set for my return to school was hailed with delight. The morning came at last, my trunk was already on its way to the little stage depot. I was only waiting for my father to come down to his breakfast and have the farcical, though necessary ceremony of leave taking over, when all at once the man who had gone to waken him came crying through the corridor, "The Master is dead! The Master is dead," and true enough it was. I hastened to his room dazed by this startling news, and there he lay as though in a profound slumber. Physicians were summoned but all in vain, and "heart failure" was pronounced the cause.

Even the most disliked relative or connection, have we only one, becomes in a way dear to us when we feel we have lost our last family tie, and for one brief moment I shed the truest tears of remorse and shame that I could not undo many things of the past. My prospective return to the school was indefinitely postponed. After the funeral the property had to be settled, and then it was my severest trial came. This young neighbor who had become the boon companion of my father asked to have his body exhumed and examined, and for reasons which I never knew, the body was removed and the medical examiner pronounced it a case of *slow poisoning*. As he was not addicted to any opiate habit, tobacco smoking or any thing of that sort, I could not believe but what it was, as they had first said, simply heart failure, and I was the more stunned with the intelligence that I was under arrest for his murder!

Those days are shrouded in such gloom, I remember nothing except that there was insufficient evidence to convict me, while *circumstances* were against me; I was acquitted, though hundreds of fingers pointed at me in shame and disgust as I left my home, with our old housekeeper, to travel, perchance forget.

Two years after—in one of the gardens of Vienna, I overheard a familiar story a man was telling for the amusement of a few chance acquaintances. He mentioned my stepfather's name, then *mine*, and as he concluded, he drew a tumbler of water toward him and dropped into it what sounded like a pebble, adding:

"This the codger carried in his pocket and gave to me only the day before he died, and, it developed such peculiar phenomena that until recently for fear of losing it I have kept it locked in my chest, in hopes some day to find out what it is." And turning slightly I saw my father's former companion, and in the glass, before the group of listeners, was the same red glare which so angered the peddler that summer afternoon. I drew my veil closer and prepared to withdraw, when the young man speaking apparently fainted. Restoratives were administered to no avail, and before a doctor could reach him his pulse had stopped.

In the excitement of caring for him, all else was forgotten, and seizing the opportunity I took the stone from the glass and hurried to the street. It did seem as though nothing but death had been the lot of all who had kept the little stone-like trinket and I began to fear

THE NEW ISSUE IN TEMPERANCE.

"WHISKEY MEDICINES."

THE VOICE.

The Leading Temperance Paper, Sounds the Call to a New Crusade in the Following Article.

"ANOTHER HEAD ON THE HYDRA."

"It is time attention was drawn to a form of alcoholic traffic that seems to have been overlooked by those engaged in the crusade against the rum power. If, as is believed and taught, alcohol is most dangerous when it fights in ambush, if it is most to be dreaded when it finds its first entrance to the system in the pleasant saucers and dishes of the home, then the form of alcoholic traffic in question is doubly dangerous, for it comes in the guise of medicine and attacks a system prepared by weakness to easily surrender to the assault. In many

PATENT MEDICINES

which are largely consumed throughout the country, by all classes of people, there is a percentage of alcohol which puts them on a level with beer, rum, and whiskey as intoxicants. It is the smallness only of the dose prescribed which prevents a prompt recognition of the intoxicating effects of these so-called medicines by those who use them.

"It is safe to affirm that they are

MEDICINES IN NAME ONLY.

Their chief value lies in their alcoholic effect as a stimulant. In fact, those who know, attribute the benefits ascribed to this class of medicines wholly to the stimulative effect of the alcohol they contain. They are used largely by persons not in the habit of drinking liquors, and the little dose taken three or four times a day is as stimulating to these people as his regular 'finger' of 'bitters' is to the regular liquor drinker.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

"What ought to be done at least is to compel every patent-medicine manufacturer to put on the wrapper of his bottle the quantity of alcohol it contains. That would at least leave people to exercise their own judgments. More than that, no paper truly interested in temperance reform should print the advertisement of any alcoholic medicine. It should be the duty of every temperance organization and branch in the country to look into this question, agitate it, and deal with the facts just as earnestly and as honestly as other facts have been dealt with."

Appreciating the gravity of the issue raised by the strong statement of facts made in the foregoing article, we wish to call general attention to the fact that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription contain

NO ALCOHOL, NO WHISKEY, NO INTOXICANT OF ANY KIND.

These medicines are equally free from opium and other narcotics.

They are in the strictest meaning of the words, *temperance medicines*. Of no other medicine, put up especially for woman's use can it be truthfully affirmed, as of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, that it contains neither alcohol nor opium or other narcotic in any form.

While the negative features of Dr. Pierce's medicines may only interest some of the readers of this article, the positive features of these medicines must be of interest to every one. The great value of "Golden Medical Discovery" in the cure of diseased or deranged conditions of the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs is testified to by tens of thousands who have found health and healing in this great remedy. The "Discovery" increases the action of the blood making glands, and by curing the diseases which corrupt and cripple the stomach and digestive and nutritive organs, it enables a full and pure supply of blood to be sent to every part of the body.

WOMEN KNOW ITS WORTH.

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there was something uncanny in its makeup. So I called a cab and drove to the nearest chemical laboratory where an eminent chemist, after examining it a moment, exclaimed wildly, "Marvelous! and have you not read in German folk-lore of 'the Blaze of the Vulture's Eye'?"

Then laying the eye on the window he proceeded to tell me that over a hundred years ago in Vienna there lived an alchemist, who for some wrong done him by the Emperor sought revenge. The vulture's eye was known to be extremely absorbent, so taking the eye balls from fifty or more of these birds, he soaked them for years in some mixture he secretly compounded, which if kept in continued contact with the body was a most deadly poison. These he gave as talismans to the Royal Household proving their inert power by showing the effect of water at a certain temperature poured over them. (The water caused a slight chemical reaction). He moreover stipulated that they must be worn constantly in order to have the desired effect.

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A CLOSE CALL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GUY E. MITCHELL.

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WILE lounging on my couch late one night in Nicaragua, smoking a last few whiffs before going to bed, I was roused into action by hearing a terrific squealing in the pig pen a short distance back of the ranch house, followed by a deep-toned roar and some lively shouting in Spanish. I grabbed my heavy shotgun loaded with slugs and ran out, but was too late by far for a shot, as his majesty, the jaguar, was by that time several hundred yards away. The pigs, however, were safe. Fortunately for them Alvarez was just stirring up the embers of his camp-fire preparatory to roasting a couple of bananas for a light bedtime lunch, when his keen eye caught the dark form of the jaguar as he slipped along to the pig pen, and snatching up a glowing ember, he rushed out there just as the jaguar was gathering for a spring into the pen and the pigs were screaming with fright.

I was making a hunting visit of a couple of months at Señor Montigo's banana plantation on the Escondido River, Nicaragua, and as I had been unable thus far to bag a jaguar, I determined to make a great effort in the morning to capture this one's skin. It had rained heavily during the forenoon; the weather promised fair for the morrow, but then one may always expect to get soaked along the Central American coast.

By daylight Alvarez, more eager than myself, and I were on the broad trail of the jaguar, his big footprints showing up plainly in the soft mud where he had jumped away from the pig pen, leading along the edge of the plantation, in and out among the bananas. We did not expect to find him very soon, but about a mile back of the plantation in the depths of the tropical forest his tracks merged in with those of hundreds of wild hogs, or peccary. These latter had been eating the palm nuts and their hoof tracks literally covered every inch of the ground. We searched very carefully but could find no other trail of the big cat than the one leading in among the peccary. At last Alvarez took a wide circuit around the spot where we had been hunting, and this time found the big tracks leading away, clear and distinct. I started forward keenly but the Nicaraguan declared that the tracks were not very fresh and must belong to another jaguar; yet he was sure they were the same footprints we had followed from the pig pen. There the tracks were, however, plainly before me, and I followed them along without paying much attention to Alvarez's speculations. I soon found them trending out toward the river, on which the ranch house was located.

"Well!" I thought, "that cat is just laying around here, bound to get those pigs whether or not; and with all these wild hogs around here too."

In one place the trail led over a stream. The stream itself was small, but during the heavy rainy season it had cut out a channel between banks twenty feet apart. This the jaguar had



COMFORT.

cleared at a bound—a magnificent leap.

"This he-jaguar," declared Alvarez. "I think bad. Look here. Sharpen his claws on tree; tear bark."

"He was evidently hungry last night to try and steal the pigs so close to the house," I replied.

At last the trail struck the river, though a mile or more from the ranch house, and then proceeded along its banks, directly for the house, traveling in a well-worn path used by the fruit cutters. It was only a little past noon and I marvelled that the jaguar should come so near the house with the men working around, in broad daylight, but I walked along rapidly with my gun at full cock, expecting every minute to come face to face with a pair of glaring eye-balls and a great tawny skin, spotted with black. After I had traversed about half the distance to the house the Nicaraguan, who was behind me and seemed to have lost all interest in the hunt, said coolly:

"What you hurry home for? You hungry? This last night's track. I told you I knew this not fresh track."

Still half afraid to take my eyes from before me, I turned around to look at the man and then realized that we had been, ever since leaving the peccary tracks, following the old trail of the jaguar of the night before as he approached the ranch for his raid on the pig pen. To say that I was disgusted would be mild. I let the hammer of my gun down with a snap that almost exploded the cartridge, and walked along sullenly, picturing the game that would be made of me by Thurman and the others in the house, the former having refused in the morning to go on any "wild goose chase after jaguars," which he said never were around when you were ready to shoot them. It did not even arouse my admiration to see where the animal had jumped another stream not very far from the house, apparently alighting on the other side as lightly as a feather. The tracks led past the house and directly for the pig pen, but I had no further interest in them and was just entering the porchway and about to stand my gun up in unutterable disgust, when I heard a loud report a short way back of us.

"There's that lazy Thurman," I thought, "out shooting birds. I hope he kills something. I feel like killing something or some one myself."

In a few minutes in came Thurman covered with sweat and excitement.

"Hi there! you and Alvarez, come out here with me. I've shot something I want to show you. He's a bird."

"Well I supposed it was a bird when I heard your gun go off. Why didn't you bring it in?"

"Well there's something to show you about it. Come on both of you. Did you kill any jaguars?"

"No," I answered sincerely.

We followed him along a few yards from the ranch-house to a point where he had struck the creek across which the jaguar had made the leap, thus meeting our trail we had just traversed and I had trailed the jaguar right up to my starting point of the morning, when there near the bank of the creek, lay a great dark body stretched out motionless, an immense dead jaguar.

"How's that?" Thurman said modestly. "I only had one load in my gun, too."

"Whew! Bully for you, old man!" I cried, forgetting my resentment and disgust at sight of the noble game, yet wishing it had been brought down by my own shot. "But this beats all. Why, we came along here not fifteen minutes ago."

"We lucky," Alvarez said quietly. "That brute trail us instead we trail him. Good thing we walk fast along here; beat him in. He catch us, make spring. He hungry; look how lean."

"Well," Thurman said, "I had an exciting time of it and he came pretty near getting all my nerve, if not my skin. I started out up the creek a few minutes ago with my shot gun, when you passed and so did not call to you for fear of scaring it. You had hardly gone by when I saw through a little glade in the brush this fellow loping along on your trail and cutting the air with sweeps of his tail. He evidently suspected something for he stopped an instant and gave me time to sling out my shells containing bird shot and jam in a couple of brass shells loaded with four and a half drachms of powder and big slugs. The stream lay between me and the jaguar, and just as I snapped the breech of my gun shut he came out on the bank and saw me. He looked as big as a house and his eyes glared at me horribly but I had a bead on him and as he paused I pulled the trigger. Nothing but a snap resulted and then I remembered that these shells had been wet. The beast gave a toss of his head and crouching low, sprang out into the air toward me. I was kneeling about twenty feet from the bank and it seemed as he came flying through the air as though he would reach me with that single leap, but he fell short luckily even of making the bank, catching it with his forelegs and claws; yet he was up on it in an instant, crouching for another spring. I said my prayers in case my second shell did not explode, and taking as steady aim as I could, pulled my other trigger, just as he rose grandly in the air on his leap. My big gun kicked me like a mule and I dropped it and rolled over to one side, grabbing for my belt knife to fight it out for my life. There was a tremendous thud as the body of the jaguar came down directly on my gun, showing how true had been his spring, and I lay there for a moment expecting to see the great paws raised to claw the life out of me. He was dead though; but I tell you I don't want any more such close calls as that."

HER LAST ASSIGNMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JULIETTE M. HABBITT.

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ENRIETTA Fair was a pale, slim little thing with curly, reddish brown hair, big earnest grey eyes and a quiet, reserved manner which did not encourage familiarity. No one about the Leader office, except Mr. Jordanssen, the managing editor, knew much about "the fair Henrietta" as some of her fellow reporters called her, but not in her hearing. It was understood, however, that this was her first attempt at newspaper work; that Mr. Jordanssen was a friend of her family and had given her the place. She "did" receptions, weddings, teas and such affairs at which some of the young women, on the paper, turned up their noses in scorn of such weak stuff. They wanted to write about startling and sensational things; make big "scoops" and have their pictures—in impossible attitudes and absurd attire—in the many hued Sunday editions, their ideal newspaper woman being a "hustler" and "one of the boys."

Henrietta was just eighteen when she came back from her last term at an exclusive educational institution for young ladies to the cosy flat, in an old-fashioned house, in one of the quietest streets in New York, which had been ever since she could remember, the home of her mother, herself and faithful old Sarah, nurse, housekeeper, maid-of-all-work. Though much disappointed, Henrietta had not been alarmed when a letter came from her mother saying she was not well enough to see her little girl graduate—Mrs. Fair was always, more or less, an invalid—and was quite unprepared to find her mother really ill. Even the young girl could see that the illness was more of the mind than body and insisted upon knowing the cause. She was told that, from being comfortably well off they had become, through the failure of a firm having charge of their financial affairs, almost penniless; that, save for a couple of hundred, or so, in bank, their furniture and personal belongings, they had nothing at all.

"And, what is to become of us, my darling child, I don't know," concluded Mrs. Fair, hopelessly.

"Don't worry, mamma dear," said Henrietta, soothingly, "I will take of you, never fear. It would be a pity—after going to school all these years—if I could not make a living for three women. I am going down, this moment, to see Mr. Jordanssen in his den and make him give me something to do for the Leader. Even if I could teach I wouldn't like to, but I've always thought I'd like being a newspaper person," and, marching off, with the fearlessness of inexperience, accomplished her object.

Born and brought up in the same quiet old town in the heart of the Empire state, Stephen Jordanssen—some fifteen years the older—had known Mary Fair from her babyhood and had hoped to make her his wife. Before he had put that hope into words she married George Warren, a handsome stranger, about whom she knew very little. An orphan, with ample means but no near relatives, she went, unaided, to her fate and learned, all too soon, that her husband was wild, dissipated, unworthy the affection of any good woman and without any real love for the wife whose money he was flinging away. Twelve miserable months went by. Then George Warren was arrested for a crime committed several years before; tried, condemned and sentenced to prison for life. His wretched wife, seeking to hide her shame, resumed her maiden name and, with her baby girl, the remnant of her fortune and her nurse, Sarah—who would not be left behind—went to New York where she knew but one person, Stephen Jordanssen, who had gone there soon after her marriage. He had been her firm friend, ever since, and Henrietta, looking upon him as a sort of uncle—she knew no other—did not hesitate to apply to him in this emergency.

Without allowing his partiality to be seen more than he could help, the managing editor made things easy for the young beginner and kept her near him when she was in the office. In this way, she saw more of Tom Danvers than was good for her peace of mind. Tom was a big, handsome blonde fellow, son of the principal stock holder of the concern and a great friend of Mr. Jordanssen. He was supposed to be studying law but spent considerable time writing rather clever articles which the editor—secretly proud of his pupil—professed to criticize, severely. The young man was very nice to Henrietta but too deeply in love with another girl to suspect the growing infatuation of his friend's protege.

One day he brought two ladies to see Mr. Jordanssen, from whom they received a warm welcome. The younger, a tall, slender blonde with soft dark hair, was Miss Katherine Vinsen, the motherless daughter and only child of Peter Vinsen, the several-times-millionaire. The other, Mrs. Von Arneheim, a stately, handsome lady of middle age, was Miss Vinsen's aunt and chaperone. Henrietta, coming in to speak to her friend, hesitated in the doorway. Mr. Danvers shook hands with her, drew her forward and said:

"Miss Vinsen, I want you to know Mr. Jordanssen's friend, Miss Fair—"

"And," interrupted Henrietta, "one of his reporters."

She had seen, at a glance, that the young lady—whom she knew, by sight, as one of the leading belles of the season—was something nearer than a friend of Mr. Danvers, and resolved that there should be no misapprehension as to her own position.

"Indeed," laughed Miss Vinsen, her black eyes meeting the upturned grey ones as she held out her daintily gloved hand. "And, what

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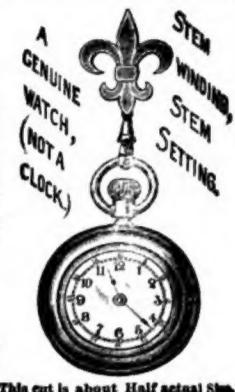


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does a little girl like you find to report?" "Nothing very important, as yet," replied Henrietta. "Only weddings, receptions and such things. I hope to do less frivolous work, sometime."

"Just now," declared Miss Vinsen, a little flushed tinting her olive cheeks, "I find 'such things' rather important. Auntie and I—my aunt, Mrs. Von Arneheim, Miss Fair—have been working very hard for some tableaux we are giving to-morrow night, for a pet charity. Won't you come and write them up? There will be dancing afterward, and I am sure you will enjoy that. Please, Mr. Jordanssen, tell Miss Fair she must come, and don't you fail us either. We would be awfully disappointed if you did."

Mrs. Von Arneheim added a pleasant word or two, then they all said good-by and went away.

"That is the girl Tom Danvers is going to marry," remarked Mr. Jordanssen, very busy at his desk. He did not care to meet Henrietta's eyes just then. He had realized, all at once, that he was much to blame for having allowed a young, impressionable girl to see so much of Tom Danvers—lovable fellow that he was—and deeply regretted his thoughtlessness. "It is a splendid match; Katherine is one of the nicest girls I know. Tom is an awfully good fellow and they are evidently very deeply in love."

"Yes, indeed," assented the girl, brightly. "That is as plain to be seen as that Miss Vinsen is exceedingly beautiful. But, I came in to ask which of these weddings I shall do. I can't be in three places, so far apart, at the same hour, you know."

"Take the Ward-Damon affair. That is most important, and, be sure, Henny, to go to the Vinsen's, to-morrow night. They are people worth knowing; their house is very beautiful; the pick of society will be there and I know you will have a good time. Say all the nice things possible, about the folks in the tableaux—that's all Katherine really cares to have said—and when they are over, fix up your account and give it to me. I want you to stay for the dancing. Do you need any money for fixings? You are the only little girl I have, and they are evidently very deeply in love."

"Not a cent, thank you, dear Mr. Jordanssen," replied Henrietta. "Mamma fixed me up, finely, before the crash—planning to give me a nice time, last summer—and lots of my things have never been worn. I fancy I'll look all right, so far as clothes are concerned, but can't imagine any one wanting to dance with me. I'll have my copy ready for you and will try to do my best to please the very best man I know," and she went out, sadly torn between a desire to see Tom Danvers and Miss Vinsen again, and dread of the pain the sight would give her.

It was a trifle late when she presented her card, next evening, at Mr. Vinsen's—her mother had been less well than usual—and the first tableau was "on" when she shook hands with Miss Vinsen and her aunt at the door of the superb ball room overflowing with Gotham's best people in their best clothes and finest jewels. Miss Vinsen, radiant in pale rose color with diamonds clasping her fair throat and gleaming amid the dusky waves of her

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hair—gave Henrietta a friendly smile; said how pleased she was to see her and added:

"This is my cousin, Mr. Von Arnheim, Miss Fair"—presenting a good-looking young fellow about her own age—"he will take care of you, Carl, find Miss Fair a good place; tell her who's who and see that she has lots of partners for the dance."

"Count me one of them, please, Miss Fair," begged Danvers, her little hand in his for a moment before Carl, regarding his charge with much approval, led her away.

She was looking very pretty in her dainty white evening gown with a strand of pearls about her neck and an unwonted color in her cheeks. Mr. Jordanssen gave her a look of fatherly pride as she and Carl slipped into some seats, half screened by a curtain, where the young man proceeded to make himself useful as well as very amusing. He knew everybody; told her who were the notables; helped jot down descriptions of costumes and kept a running fire of whispered comment which Henrietta would have thoroughly enjoyed if she could have kept her thoughts and glance from straying toward the beautiful mistress of the mansion and the lover bending his fair head to whisper in her ear.

When the curtain was drawn on the last pose, Carl took Henrietta upstairs and Miss Vinsen's maid showed her into Miss Vinsen's boudoir; asked if she could do anything more then rejoined the other maids, in the hall, where they were peeping at the company. Henrietta, settling herself in a big easy chair, began her task but had written only a few lines when a sound in the bedroom beyond startled her. Looking up, she saw in the mirror before her, a dark, rough-looking, black bearded man, with ragged hair drawn down over his brows, picking up something from the dressing table. She tried to slip out without attracting his attention but he saw her and, with a smothered oath, caught her as she reached the door. Her scream was half stifled by a blow from the butt of a revolver which, in the struggle, was discharged, the bullet entering the breast of the burglar. Immediately the room was filled with shocked and startled people. The man was dead and Henrietta only just alive. Miss Vinsen, with tears streaming down her cheeks and heedless of her rich gown, took the poor little head, with its blood matted curls, on her lap.

"Poor mamma," murmured the girl, faintly, "what will become of her?"

"I will care for her, my darling," promised Mr. Jordanssen, kneeling beside her. "But, don't give up, dear child. Live for her and for us."

A shadowy smile fitted across her lips and they thought that she had ceased to breathe, but, once more, she opened her eyes, and with her whole heart in them, looked at Tom Danvers.

"Kiss me," she whispered. "She won't mind, just once," and, as he pressed his lips reverently to hers, sighed and passed away.

As the burglar was carried out, Mr. Jordan saw his face.

"My God," he muttered, "it is George Warren! Her father!"

A CAT ON THE STAIRS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY AUBERTINE W. MOORE.

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DOOTHY Barbour had a great desire for an adventure. When she was bidden to the home of her forefathers to visit her mother's maiden sister, Miss Constance Pringle, who lived there alone with the household servants, she hoped that one might at last be hers.

The Pringle mansion was known as the Castle on the Heights, because of its palatial size and appearance and of its situation on a hill commanding a view of an exceedingly

picturesque landscape. This ancestral home, scene of many adventures, would surely be an appropriate place for an adventure worth having.

But Dorothy did not feel very much like a heroine of romance or adventure, when she first set foot on the stairs leading from the lower hall to the drawing-room. There must have been a warp in the brain of the architect who planned them. A narrow passage off the extreme end of the broad hall in the center of the house led to the first flight, which could only gain a glimmer of light when the back-hall door was open.

On either side of the stairs there were ballusters, and at the top of the narrow flight was a narrow landing. The second flight began a little to the left of the first and led upward between two walls. On the upper landing the drawing-room door opened.

As Dorothy was ushered upstairs, on her arrival, the dismal darkness appalled her. She screamed outright as she stumbled on something soft near the top. The drawing-room door was flung open and Aunt Constance appeared.

"My poor kitten," exclaimed the good lady, hastening forward and gathering up the furry ball against which Dorothy had stumbled. "And my dear Dorothy," she added, throwing her disengaged arm about the shrinking girl.

On the threshold of the large, high-ceiled drawing-room Dorothy was met by quite a family of cats and kittens. The young girl concealed her aversion to them as best she could on learning how fond her aunt was of them.

Cats and kittens were forgotten when Dorothy looked out of the window in front of her, and caught sight of the blue dancing waters of a charming lake. A rolling lawn, dotted by

handsome trees led to it, and on the shore was an ornamental boat house which promised stores of pleasure.

She was not disappointed. The young people in the neighborhood had soon drawn her into all their sports, and Dorothy would thoroughly have enjoyed the days that followed but for those stairs and her Aunt Constance's pets. The entire house and especially the dark staircase seemed fairly to swarm with feline monsters.

One afternoon Dorothy returned from a boating expedition to find the mansion apparently deserted. She remembered that her aunt had spoken of driving and that there had been some talk of an outing among the servants.

To her astonishment the front door stood wide open. Usually the great brass knocker must be sounded before admission could be gained. The back door was closed. Darkness reigned supreme on the stairs. As Dorothy ascended, hideous possibilities suggested themselves to her.

Suddenly she heard something stir on the first landing. Pausing she listened. A stealthy cat-like footfall was plainly audible. Elastic though it was, it seemed heavier than that of an ordinary cat. It must be an uncommonly large animal. The next stair creaked as Dorothy put her foot on it, and the creature above sprang upward with lightning speed.

Dorothy was provoked with herself for feeling so alarmed. Gathering up her courage she resolved that a cat should not bar her out of the drawing-room. Having reached the first landing she drew from her pocket a match safe which, girl though she was, she always carried about with her, and struck a light.

A blood-curdling sound smote upon her ear. Dorothy staggered against the balluster protecting the outer side of the landing, while the match fell and was extinguished. What she heard was a hideous roar, followed by a long continued snarling growl. It was like a seething, bubbling cauldron of rage. Dorothy shivered with terror. Absolute helplessness overcame her.

She knew that the beast from which no barrier whatever separated her, was a creature far more to be dreaded than a cat. Her approach had goaded it to a frenzy that increased its strength in the same proportion that frightened her. At any moment a monstrous, hairy mass might be precipitated against her, and cruel claws might tear her flesh.

Dorothy was in the midst of a thrilling adventure, but she was not in a condition to realize it. Not to be able to see in moments of supreme dread is horrible. Instinctively Dorothy struck another light. The same demoniacal roar as before woke the echoes of the deserted mansion. Although quivering like an aspen Dorothy clung to her match. Its flickering rays cast a glimmer on the upper landing. A sight was revealed that made Dorothy's flesh creep with horror.

Crouched against the far corner of the wall, the back arched, the hair bristling, the eyes like balls of fire, was an object resembling a black cat of gigantic proportions. It was a black panther. As in a dream Dorothy remembered hearing of a circus, about a mile distant. It was there all the servants, except the coachman who was driving Aunt Constance, must have gone. Their excitement would account for the neglect of the front door. The panther had unquestionably escaped from the menagerie.

Dorothy remained pressed against the balluster. The only motion she made was to strike match after match, in view of keeping the dread foe in sight. Soon her safe would be empty. What should she then do? She dared not move. All at once, she became conscious of a faint step. A strong young voice, in a peculiar, purring tone, was heard saying:

"Keep still, you who are alone. I am coming."

Not until the new-comer had reached the first landing did Dorothy dare turn her head. In spite of the ghastly situation in which she found herself, her attention was at once riveted on the figure, with lighted lantern in hand, that approached her. It was that of a boy of about her own age—that is not more than sixteen—clad in the motley garb of a beast-tamer. He was a powerfully built lad, with the form of a gladiator and the face of an inspired hero. His cheeks were flushed, his dark eyes shone with wonderful brilliancy, and a wealth of curly hair tumbled over his noble forehead.

"The panther got away from us. I tracked him here. I saw you enter," said the youth, in the same soft, purring tones Dorothy had at first noticed.

"Take you the lantern," he continued, not varying the peculiar mode of speech, which is one of the beast-tamer's weapons. "But wait a moment," and he pushed a slide in front of the flame so that but a slender streak of light, sharp as a dagger, escaped from the lantern, which he gave Dorothy. "Aim the light directly at his eye," said the boy.

Dorothy did as she was bid. The object of the command was at once apparent. The panther closed his eyes as though hurt, and his roar gave place to a snarling moan. Prostrating himself on the landing so that the upper portion of his body touched the first step of the second flight, the young beast-tamer glided snake-like toward the panther.

In his left hand he grasped a huge piece of meat, which he held far in front of him. His right hand clutched a noose of leather and wire. His movements were accompanied by the monotonous, murmuring, gurgling sound heard from the first.

"Push back the slide," said the beast-tamer, as soon as his face was on a level with the upper landing. "Throw the full light above, and be on your guard when I begin to come down with him."

His eyes were fixed on the panther. The monster had stretched out his long neck, and was sniffing the air. Evidently he had scented the meat. Noiselessly the beast-tamer's right hand was drawing nearer and nearer the panther until it touched the beast's head.

Once more there rang out the deafening roar that had at first paralyzed Dorothy. This time it was more infuriated than before. Now the youth sprang to his feet, holding with outstretched arm a struggling palpitating load, suspended from a leather strap. Panting, with wide-open, glittering eyes, and exhibiting marvelous strength, the young beast-tamer looked like a hero of light who had overcome and was bearing away captive a demon of darkness.

"Give me plenty of light as you go down," said he to Dorothy. "Keep your distance."

Dorothy began the descent backwards, casting the lantern's glow on the boy's pathway. The panther dangling from the noose was wildly clawing the air. Soon it grew quiet, and the boy attempted to support it from behind with his left hand. He did not wish

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The Mayor of the greatest city in the world is a most important person with almost the state and circumstance of a European monarch. He holds his office for one year and during that time has the rank and precedence of an English earl. The present Lord Mayor is

Sir John Moore, who was installed in his office in November. In 1894, he was Sheriff of London and at the expiration of his term in that year the honor of knighthood was conferred on him. He comes of a sturdy old English family of the Lancashire town of Stockport. Here his father was closely identified with the great institution, The Stockport Sunday School, which is the largest and most perfect of its kind in the world. The Lord Mayor is an active business man who has made himself widely known through his sustained fight against food adulteration. He is a merchant prince but has also a retail business in tea and coffee. He has several shops and one may purchase from the Lord Mayor a quarter of a pound of tea or a thousand chests of a hundred pounds each. His principal shop is in King William's street and is like the queer old places which the pen of Dickens has made famous. The window is filled with tea chests and tea canisters. The dingy shop behind is filled by a long counter and a line of salesmen busy weighing out tea. In a small office back of this busy scene sits the man with care-worn face who is busy with the civic duties of the old city of London. Sir John is a widower. His only daughter, Mrs. King Farlow will discharge the onerous social duties that devolve upon a Lady Mayoress. There are eight sons in the Moore family. The office of Lord Mayor is a very difficult one to fill but Sir John Moore is more the type of an old time Mayor than any one who has filled the chair in recent years.

When we officially acquire the Philippines one of our nearest neighbors will be the Mikado Mutsuhito. Thus the latest civilization in the world will extend its power side by side with the oldest—for the oldest political dynasty in the world is that of Japan, the Emperor being the one hundred and twenty-first of his line. The present Emperor, whose name means "gentleman," was born in 1852, at about the time that Perry opened the way for our first treaty with the Japanese. He was born in the sacred city of Kioto, the second son of the Emperor Komei. His mother's family had for years furnished the leading statesmen of Japan. The young "Son of Heaven" was brought up in all the fantastic luxury and time-honored observances of ancient Japan. In 1860 he was declared heir to the throne and in that time he has seen Japan leap from the Orient to the Occident in its ideas of government and political economy. To-day his subjects are burning with restless patriotism. Enterprising, ambitious, progressive, they hope to make the island empire one of the first powers of the world. The united empire of Japan extends from the northern fogs to the tropics and comprises the Loo-Choo islands, once claimed by China, the Bonin Archipelago, Formosa and the Pescadores, ceded from China, and the Kurile islands. In 1867 Mutsuhito ascended the throne. The official designation of his reign was the word Meiji, which means "enlightened peace or civilization." A new government was formed and the Mikado came from behind the screen and in person attended the meetings of the new council. By the new constitution it was agreed that a Diet should be convoked, that the actions of the new government should be decided by public opinion, that the old customs of seclusion should be abolished and that educated and trained men from other nations should be invited to come to Japan. These sweeping reforms were gradually made although it was not for twenty-one years that the promise of a representative government was fulfilled. The Constitution of Japan was promulgated in 1889 and to-day the government follows very closely the

model of Great Britain. The Emperor, reared in all the seclusion and tradition of the old regime, is the leading spirit in the new. Forty-six years of age, in sound mental and physical condition, with strong common sense and a spirit devoted to his people's welfare, Mikado Mutsuhito is the ruler of an enlightened people. Monogamy is not yet an institution in Japan although the increased sense of moral responsibility among the Japanese must bring the condition in time. The Empress Haruko is childless. Ten of the Emperor's children have lived. The Prince Imperial Yoshito is the third son of the Emperor, his mother being Yanagiwara Aiko. He was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1887.

Maud Powell is one of the great women violinists of the world. She is an American girl whose home was in Aurora, Ill. After hearing Camillo Urso play she resolved to master the violin. She studied four years in Chicago and then came some years of successful study in Leipzig. From there she went to Paris, where she succeeded in entering the class of the great master, Dancla. Eighty pupils applied and but twelve could be accepted. Maud Powell was unanimously given first place. Two years of study and she made her London debut to be at once given a foremost place. Miss Powell, after a successful season in America has returned to Europe where she will spend two more years in study.

Two great queens have passed from the fierce light that beats upon a throne during the last year. Their characters furnished as marked a contrast as did their different fates. The story of Empress Elizabeth of Austria is one of romance and tragedy while that of Queen Louise of Denmark is the story of a quiet, domestic German life. Queen Louise was born in 1817 and was nearing her eighty-second birthday at the time of her death. She was the daughter of a petty German Prince, the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. In 1841 she married the fourth son of another German duke. It was not an ambitious marriage but rather one of love. The two young people were often in severe financial difficulties in spite of their modest manner of living. In 1863 by a turn of Fortune's wheel the penniless German duke became the almost equally penniless King of Denmark with the title of Christian IX. Six children were born of the marriage and Queen Louise was literally mother-in-law to half the crowned heads of Europe. Princess Marie Dagmar married Alexander III, the late Czar of Russia, and is now Empress Dowager of that great empire. Alexandra "Sea King's daughter from over the sea" is the much beloved Princess of Wales, some day to be Queen of England. The third son is George I, of Greece, having been elected to that throne by the people of Greece. Another son, the Crown Prince of Denmark will succeed his father on the throne. All in all, Queen Louise had had a most pleasant and successful life journey. She was literally a mother of queens. Gifted to an unusual degree with good, plain every day commonsense, simple yet dignified, her influence was wide spread and always for good. Her influence with the late Czar of Russia was known to be great and many affairs of state were discussed at the family gatherings in Denmark. The death of Queen Louise throws half of Europe into mourning as sincere as it is respectful.

Mrs. Virginia Reynolds is a young American woman who has been elected to membership in the Society of Fine Art of France as the result of one exhibition of her work. This exhibition was her first public one and consisted of a case of fine miniatures shown in 1897 at the Champs de Mars Salon. The unprecedented honor of an immediate election to the Societe Nationale des Beaux Arts followed this demonstration of the unusual talent of the young American woman. This seemed to be success at one bound, but years and years of painstaking work preceded the success. Mrs. Reynolds was born in Chicago, but on the death of her father moved with her mother into a small Illinois town. Her mother was a musician and Mrs. Reynolds was taught to play al-

most before she could read. At the age of thirteen she was playing the church organ and copying portraits from photographs. She studied for a year in the Chicago Art Institute and then with her mother went abroad to study music and painting. Over practice brought on a serious trouble with the muscles of the hand and Mrs. Reynolds was forced to give up her music. Then came her marriage and it was at her husband's suggestion that she turned her attention to the delicate art of miniature painting. She has made a great success as a teacher of this art. Eleven from her class of thirteen girls succeeded in having miniatures accepted at the Paris Salon. Last summer in Holland Mrs. Reynolds worked out of doors selecting the peasants as her models. Mrs. Reynolds is now in America where she will paint many miniatures of leading society women.

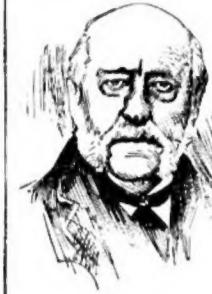
The late Empress of Austria has been one of the most romantic figures among the crowned heads of Europe. January first finds the Austrian Court still in mourning for its Empress, although for years she had been rarely seen at any court functions. Empress Elizabeth was

one of the most celebrated beauties of her time, but she had refused to allow any picture of her to be made during the later years of her life so it is as she stirred the fancy of an older generation that we show her to the readers of COMFORT. Elizabeth Amelia Eugenie was the daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria and the most beautiful princess in Christendom. To the petty court of her father came her cousin Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, as a suitor for the hand of her elder sister. He saw the young Princess Elizabeth, fell deeply in love with her and would have no other for his bride and Empress. "It is too good to be true, I am such an insignificant little thing" said Elizabeth when the news was conveyed to her. Eight months later she became Empress of Austria. Her life at the Court of Vienna was not altogether a happy one even in her young days. A strong court faction was formed against the young Bavarian Princess. Three children, two daughters and a son were born to her. The self-inflicted death of the Crown Prince Rudolph was one of the many dramatic tragedies that have filled her years with sorrow and trouble. Her later years were passed in wandering over Europe and in living her life as best pleased her until the tragic end came from the knife of an Italian assassin at Geneva on September tenth. The wonderful display of the Aurora the night before the Empress was assassinated recalled to many minds the old superstitious legend of the

"Fearful lights that never beacon
Save when kings or heroes die."



Jotura Komura, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States is an exponent of the liberal culture that marks a new Japan. A graduate of the best universities of the island empire, he came to the United States in 1875 and entered Harvard. He graduated from that university in 1880. His five years' residence in America has made him thoroughly conversant with the affairs of this great nation. For the past eighteen years he has been closely identified with the diplomatic service of Japan. He was minister to China at the outbreak of the Chinese-Japanese war. When the Emperor chose him to succeed Toru Hoshi as Minister to the United States he was serving as assistant secretary of state. He has all the qualifications for a markedly successful service. He is highly educated, no stranger to the ideas, manners and customs of this country, and thoroughly identified with the government and thought of new Japan. Personally he is calm, dignified and self-contained. He unites the calm of the Orient with the quick thought of the average Yankee.



Sir Julian Pauncefote, G. C. B., G. C. M. G., Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her British Majesty to the United States, is a typical Englishman of whom American people are decidedly fond. He has quietly won his way to a general liking during the ten years that he has represented Great Britain in this country. He came when we were not feeling particularly friendly to his country but during three administrations he has demonstrated his diplomatic ability. This ability has been gained by the slow steps by which England trains her men for service. Sir Julian began diplomatic life as the Secretary to the Secretary of State for the colonies. Then followed several years of practice as a lawyer in Hong Kong and then eight years as Attorney General of that Chinese Metropolis. In 1874, he was made Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands and in that same year he was knighted. Then he was called back to England as assistant under Secretary of Foreign Affairs. From that time promotion was rapid and honor after honor was heaped upon him. When we provided by law to raise our ministers to the rank of ambassadors, Great Britain was the first nation to take advantage of the change and Sir Julian, who was already Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, was raised to the rank of Ambassador. In 1894, he was made a Privy Councillor and in 1897 he received the Jubilee Medal. Sir Julian Pauncefote is a typical Englishman and his face bears a family resemblance to the John Bull of the cartoonist. He has personally managed most of the correspondence on the Behring Sea question and on arbitration, and it is his great regret that the principle of arbitration was not accepted by the United States and Great Britain. The British Embassy in Washington is the property of the British Government and bears the royal arms over its entrance. Sir Julian is fond of music and of the theater and like all Englishmen he is devoted to out-of-door sports. There have been rumors of his recall and it is but fair to say that when that event does take place it will be regretted by the nation at large.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

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EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

And now we are at the opening of another year. 1898, with its joys and its sorrows, its horrors of war, and the sickness and suffering attendant thereon, are all things of the past, and the pages of

the new year—of the last year of the century—lie before us, fair and spotless. What shall be their record? How will they appear as we turn them backward for examination when 1900 comes peeping in upon us? Written all over they must be, with good deeds or bad; with efforts of helpfulness to others; of kind words fitly spoken; with honesty, sobriety, manliness and womanliness; or with the reverse. Which shall it be?

Our first letter this month is from Alabama, and those of us who are familiar with the "Sunny South" will recognize the truthfulness of this description of the colored dwellers there. Our correspondent says:



FORMING as they do a large part of the population in many of the Southern States it may be of interest to note a few of the traits and peculiarities of the colored people as found at the present time. One of the most noticeable traits is their cheerful and happy disposition. At work or play they are always in the singing mood. Given enough to satisfy to-day's wants they do not worry themselves about to-morrow. They have no ambition to become property owners. Land suitable for cultivation is cheap and can be bought on favorable terms, building

material is not high, and in this climate it does not require any large outlay to secure comfortable and tidy homes, and yet we find them, with few exceptions, squatters on some wild tract of land, living in dilapidated cabins that hardly afford them shelter from the storm. Another trait that attracts attention is their devotion and attendance on public worship and prayer meeting. Every Sabbath day they fill their little churches, and it is often well toward midnight before they finish up the services. They are as well dressed and well behaved as any similar gathering of the white folks. On a week day evening the negro and his family will walk for miles through the woods to attend prayer meeting, no matter how dark and stormy the night. The service consists mainly of singing and prayer. The singing is very enthusiastic and sometimes quite melodious. The precepts and admonitions they receive from their pastors and teachers are of that character that should lead them to a higher and better way of living. Now we should expect some good results from all this and no doubt it has a restraining influence, but some of these people cannot be made to understand that the ten commandments apply to them in any way. The Psalmist who said in his haste that 'all men are liars,' would not have qualified his assertion very much if he had been intimate with these people. Another trait that is observed in the colored people is their politeness and courtesy to every one, and more especially among themselves. Their use of the English language in conversation is often amusing. They appear to select the longest and most unthought-of words to express their meaning, and often they get sadly mixed up.

"One of the bright sayings of Mark Twain that 'a cauliflower is a cabbage with a college education,' might be applied to the negro race. It is evident, however, that it will require more than one generation of education and culture to transform them into intelligent and progressive citizens. The vices and irregularities acquired by the race during long years of servitude still cling to them. But there are influences at work, bidding them to 'Leave their low-vaulted past,' and giving them nobler views and higher aims in life. There are educated and talented young colored men scattered through the South who are making it their life work to improve their race and fit them better to perform their duties as citizens."

GEO. H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

Now here is a letter from Annette Rosamond Muller, of South Amboy, N.J.: a very pleasant letter it is too, full of praises of our brave soldier boys in the late war with Spain, but it is crowded out, to my great regret.

Our next letter is upon the old Muller House in New York State. I wonder, by the way, if our Cousin Annette Muller claims relationship there.

"On the top of a high hill, about two and a half miles west of Georgetown, N. Y., stands an old house known as the 'Muller House.' It was built nearly a hundred years ago, by a wealthy Frenchman named Muller, who was obliged to fly from France for political reasons. On coming to this country he obtained a large tract of land from the Indians, a part of which is now known as the 'Muller farm.' This house, which is built of hewn black cherry timbers, is the only building now remaining of those erected by Muller, and is still in a good state of preservation. The timbers of which it is made are each twelve inches thick and eleven feet in length. They are placed upright, side by side, and dovetailed closely together, thus forming a solid wall. This was lathed and plastered within, and most carefully and elaborately finished. There were seven open fireplaces in the house, all finished in black marble. The house was beautifully finished and furnished with the richest of furniture in mahogany and other costly woods. But the most peculiar thing about it is that the cellar walls are seven feet thick. It is supposed that there is a secret passage entirely around the house within these cellar walls, but no one has ever been able to find the entrance to it.

"The surrounding grounds still show traces of their former beauty. The trout ponds and deer parks here once had no equal in the State. In the park are still to be seen immense maple trees growing in fantastic shapes, showing that they had once received great care and training. In the center of the park is a large open space across which the deer were driven while the hunters waited to get a shot at them. Muller never allowed his deer to be shot unless they were running across this opening.

"A little back of the house and within the woods is a swamp where grow a great variety of wild flowers, some of which are so rare as to be found nowhere else in the state.

"Not a member of the Muller family now remains here, and it is not known what became of them. Muller, himself, went back to France, leaving his wife and children in New York, and never sent for them. It is said that the wife resumed her maiden name, both for herself and her children, and hence the name of Muller became obliterated."

F. E. HALBERT, Cortland, N. Y.

Alice Heffington must try again. This letter which she sends me is very pleasant, but I am sorry to say that I cannot give it a prize. Thank you for it, all the same, my dear.

George Johnson, with his account of a walnutting party, carries me back to my own youthful frolics, but his letter is far too long, and not of sufficient interest to all the cousins for me to publish. Send me a short one, George, on some really interesting subject, and see how quickly I will use it.

Now we have an account of a most curious amphibious animal, called the mud fish.

"A very curious link between fish and reptile, is the creature known as the mud fish. Although he partakes of the characteristics of both animals, he is classified as a fish on account of his scaly covering and rudimentary fins, which are in reality more like feet than fins, as they are used both to support the fish and direct his movements. Ordinarily sluggish, he can be very swift when occasion requires; moving rapidly backward and forward by means of his tail.

"In form, this strange fellow is long and narrow, mixed olive green and brown in color—a little lighter in some places—with dark irregular spots near the tail. There seems to be no trace of an ear, and the eyes are small and flat to the head, with a golden iris. He breathes both by lungs and gills, and comes to the surface of the water for air occasionally. During the eight months of the dry season in the tropical countries where the mud fish lives he lies at the bottom of deep morasses and half dried rivers, rolled in a kind of mud cocoon, in a state of torpidity. He leaves a hole at one end of the cocoon through which to breathe. Upon emerging from his cocoon, the animal is simply ravenous; and as he is a great fighter when aroused he will frequently attack, and even eat up a companion. Under ordinary circumstances his diet consists of small frogs, fish, worms, and vegetable matter.

"In the river Amazon in Brazil, where the mud fish was first discovered, he grows sometimes three feet long, but in other localities he only averages about two feet.

"Rice fields, which are in a quivering state of jellylike mud during the greater part of the year, contain quantities of mud fish, which at the end of the dry season the natives dig up and eat as a great delicacy.

"The mud fish is sometimes called the 'Paradox,' and is considered by scientific men to be the nearest approach known to a perfectly amphibious animal. Some specimens have been taken to Europe to raise, but with very little success."

MARY E. MARTIN, New York.

Mrs. George C. Goodyear, of Saginaw, Michigan, sends me a very interesting account of the reception tendered to the returning soldiers of Saginaw in September last, but it reaches me far too late for use.

Here is a letter from North Carolina, but election riots do not seem to disturb the busy life of this little place.

"Our beautiful little village, Faith, is situated six miles from the county-seat of Rowan County, on the granite belt, and it is very interesting to watch the men at work in the granite quarries, some drilling by hand, others by steam drills; here is a group of men making millstones, there others cutting curbing for street purposes, and still further on they are engaged in making paving blocks and sills for windows and doors; while near us men are feeding a large and excessively noisy stone crusher, which grinds up the granite as if it were loaves of bread, or something equally soft. One hundred car-loads of granite curbing are frequently shipped at one time from here to Raleigh.

"We have in our yard a beautiful grove which is often visited by Sunday School picnics and religious bodies needing a place for meetings. A large gospel tent has lately been erected there, and for a week a revival meeting has been going on in it. Crowds of people come from far and near both to these meetings and to the frequent picnics that come here, and all seem to enjoy their visit."

MRS. CHARLOTTE E. WYATT, Faith, N. C.

Jennie Purviance, of Perryville, Ark., sends me a cheering word of appreciation of our page which is very welcome; she also gives me a half promise of a letter later, on some subject of interest. I am sorry not to publish her letter to shut-ins, on the subject of healing, but I receive so many letters of that kind that my space would be filled with them were I to give them room; so, as this is not a "Shut-in" page, I am obliged to refuse them all.

By the way, will my nephews and nieces please remember that, as this page is "made up" at least two months before it is published, it is therefore necessary that matters intended for any particular issue should be in my hands three months before it is to come out.

Now we have another bit of Virginia scenery laid before us. Truly, this proud old state is rich in itself aside from the remarkable men whom she has sent out into the world.

"Fifteen miles east of Lynchburg, Va., is a rock on the James river called Holcomb's Rock. It is one hundred and fifty feet high, and twenty-five feet in width. On the top it is composed of two large rocks and many small ones, and at the bottom it is at least sixty feet from the river; on top there is space of land one hundred yards long and four yards wide, that leads right on the rock. You can ride a horse so as to jump from the horse on the rock. It is a very pleasant place to visit on a summer day; there are several springs and many

shady trees around it. Among the trees that grow around it are spruce, pine and others. Most of the rock is covered with moss and around the edge there are many pretty wild flowers. It was a very famous place in ancient times, and is now. I have heard that it derived its name from an old slave man named Holcomb, who jumped over it."

ALMA E. HARVEY, Clifford, Va.

Here is a new Virginia cousin whom we are glad to welcome among us. He gives us a pleasant description of his home surroundings.

"I am just becoming a reader of *COMFORT* and would like to be admitted to your social circle. Our valley is known as 'Falling Spring Valley,' and derived its name from a large stream of water which falls over a precipice one hundred and nine feet high. The big cliffs at these falls are grand. The rocks look as if they had been cut and built one upon another. Another picturesque spot is the 'Cress Lakes' where cress is gathered all winter and shipped to northern markets. These lakes are beautiful in winter when the earth is hidden by snow. Their water is warm, and ice was never known to form on them, though it is bitterly cold here. Our valley is somewhat hilly, but rich and fertile. It is about three miles wide and eighteen miles, situated in the northwestern part of Virginia. The celebrated 'Hot Springs,' one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the State, are here. The 'Natural Well,' three and a half miles from Falling Springs, is a curiosity. I live on a farm one and a half miles from Falling Springs and the lovely cades."

S. E. ROBINSON, Savannah, Va.

Now let us visit Luray Cave with another Virginia cousin.

"The Luray Cavern is nestled among the hills of Page County, Virginia. In the year of 1878 Mr. B. G. Stebbins of Luray wished to explore an old cave which was known to have existed there for years immemorial, and invited two friends to accompany him. They would not consent to this, but were willing to go in search of a new cave. So they went roaming over the hills for several weeks, without any result. One day they crossed the hill where the old cave was situated, and a short distance from its mouth they came upon a hole filled with bushes, weeds and stones, from whence issued a cool current of air. After much labor in clearing out the place one of the men let down into the hole by a rope and proceeded some distance on foot until stopped by water.

"This was the discovery of the marvelous Luray cave, which has since been gradually revealed. Luray is now considered one of the most beautiful caverns in the world. Come into it with me and behold its wonders for yourselves. After a considerable descent we enter an immense room, and passing through it we come to the Vegetable Garden, so called from the strong resemblance of the



THE LURAY CAVERNS.

rock formations within it to vegetables. Then comes the theatre and the gallery, and, passing over Muddy lake on a plank walk, we reach the Fish Market; then on to Pluto's Chasm, the depth of whose black abyss has never been ascertained. Then there is the Bridge of Sighs, Titania's Veil, and Diana's Baths; also the Wet Blanket, which hangs high and always dripping water. The massive columns here and there are grand and imposing, notably so the Fallen Column. The Cathedral is a study in itself; its lofty dome and Gothic arches are an inspiration. The immense organ in one corner is another wonder, and when the guide strikes the pipes beautiful, deep, musical sounds reach the ear. Adjoining the organ are the chimes, the sweetest ever heard. Passing through the Bridal Chamber we enter the Giants' Hall and the Ball-room. A beautiful white formation in the last named room shows the symmetrical figure of a young woman which is called Cinderella leaving the ball-room. Very near, hanging against the wall, is a lady's riding whip. Close by is the Cemetery, and beyond that the Fowl Market, where the formations bear a striking resemblance to fowls.

"Beautiful, crystal springs and lakes dot the cave here and there, while the limestone formations among which they are, assume such a variety of forms and coloring that one might easily imagine himself in a forest with tall trees, shrubbery, fallen logs and sparkling, limpid water everywhere about."

M. C.

A letter from our Montreal cousin shows us a pathetic bit of life in a convalescent Home for children. She says:

"Let me tell you our readers about a small convalescent Home, situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence river. Eighteen is the greatest number that can be accommodated here at once, but as only non-contagious diseases are allowed there is rarely the full number here in winter; but in summer the beds are always full, and it is gratifying to see the color come into the pale, pinched faces of poor sickly little children, and to watch how, after a few days, they begin to run about and enjoy themselves.

"Let me tell you about a few of these little patients. E. M. was a dear little boy of three years, his mother dead, and his father a stoker in some large factory. Having no one to look after his boy the father took him with him to the factory. From the bad, confined atmosphere the poor child soon became ill, and so drifted into our Home. He was white as wax the day he was carried in and laid on his little cot, but fresh air, regular food and proper care soon told, and E. became the pet of the Home. Another boy had never slept in a properly made bed, and the poor fellow undressed and lay on the outside, gathering up the quilt as a covering. A little French boy cried when he first saw the bath, for he was afraid of being drowned in it. Another was a very funny little fellow, very careful of his clothes, and very much afraid that when taken away to the wash they would never be brought back again. One day he sat nearly an hour watching the clean clothes on the line for fear that some one would take away his stockings which he recognized hanging there."

M. S. B., Montreal, Canada.

Below are extracts from letters written home last winter by a Texas boy who joined the army of seekers for gold in the far off land of Alaska. His sister sent them to us, thinking we would find them of interest.

"I sailed from Seattle, February, 1898, on the steamer Queen. We arrived at Victoria, B. C., on the 20th, and after two days there we began our trip on the ocean. We made one or two stops before reaching Juneau, but the weather was so cold that I did not venture ashore, the mercury standing at thirty degrees below zero. The scenery we passed was romantic and beautiful. Mountains covered with snow, huge icebergs and glaciers along the coast on one side of us and the deep blue sea on the other.

"Juneau, Alaska, is an old Esquimaux village with their dogs and reindeer pulling their sleds. It is too cold for cattle and horses here as they have snow and ice the year round, and in winter the days are only a few hours long. Our voyage ended at Skagway and when I saw all the snow and ice I began to wish I were at home.

"Skagway is situated in a deep canyon between two hills eight or ten thousand feet high. The sun only shines two hours a day now and I am told that

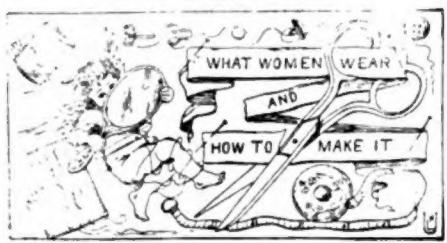
in summer it is dark only two hours. Skagway is fifteen months old and has a population of eight



JUNEAU, ALASKA.

thousand and very nearly half live in tents, as all the lumber used must be shipped from the United States.

"How I long to see dear old Texas again! To hear the birds singing and see flowers blooming instead of the bleak snow-covered mountains. The only timber here is the birch and cotton-wood and not much of either. Prices are very high and wages are good but there are more people here than there is work."



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ADAME La Mode is taking one of her much-needed holidays, leaving me, as her faithful chronicler, somewhat at a loss for startling news. Still, having my COMFORT readers constantly in mind, and my eyes and ears always open for the noting of trifles light as air, but in the end important, I have enough news to keep my lady employed and interested until my next budget, when things will have adjusted themselves more certainly, as far as modes go.

So it is that I can confide in you that among new goods are exquisite dress materials in lighter stuffs, where endless encircling tucks are simulated by interwoven lines of satin or silk, or a silk and wool mixture looking like braid. Apropos of which statement, it may be well to remark that all the stripes and tucks will be arranged to go round, and not down the skirt, though, perhaps, it is hardly kind to make short and stout folks unhappy in anticipation, for the reality will be bad enough when it arrives; however, there are always plain materials for them to fall back on.

Lace is as lavishly used as ever, both for the purpose of trimming and for the making of entire gowns, while perhaps the most notable innovation in the line of smart mid-winter costumes for dressy functions is the lace bodice having basques reaching almost to the knees and curving upward in a manner which has by this time become a familiar sight, inasmuch as it has distinguished all the fashionable capes and wraps of the past few months. A fetching new costume carrying out this idea has its skirt built of the finest and most supple cloth, in a tender shade of grey, the skirt distinguished by a deep flounce, which, instead of sweeping upwards at the back, as was the habit of the flounce for so long, has its highest point in the front, and then curves downward till, at the back, it is only about five inches deep. The effect is curious and is apt at first to be pronounced unbecoming, but it is really a most graceful arrangement and a most decided improvement.

This particular flounce of which I speak is arranged in deep pleats, opening outwards at the hem, an idea which is repeated in the rounded basques of the lace bodice. In fact the coat is all softly pleated, and held in at the waist by a folded band of white satin, which passes underneath the bordering pleats in the front, leaving them to hang loosely in something of fichu fashion from the pleated collar which falls over the shoulders. The concluding items of a vest and cravat of white mousse-line de soie go to make up a distinctly novel dress. Smarter still is another gown, where the skirt of Parma mauve cloth has a curved flounce in white cloth, where many rows of gathered satin ribbon, in a delicate mauve coloring, are arranged in a particularly clever fashion. They appear again to decorate the open-fronted coat of white cloth, which has long, plain basques, with rounded fronts outlined with a double frill of mauve mouseline de soie. Then there are revers of white satin, edged with soft frills, and a vest of white lawn and lace crossed by two bands and rosettes of

and not likely to make one's figure look short or stumpy; still there is some danger for those at all inclined to stoutness, unless they are tall. All such will be wise to pin their affections to another new style, where bodice and skirt open with a scalloped edge, piped with velvet, over a vest and petticoat, where tiny pleats are arranged to form a series of V's. The Princess effect is broken by a narrow band of velvet at the waist finished by long sash ends, and there is a collar to match, which, however, is so narrow that it does not disguise the unrelieved tightness of the tucked sleeves. It is, on the whole, a graceful gown, and the continued lines of bodice and skirt give length to the figure.

The winter season has formally installed the Newmarket as a feature not to be overlooked by the woman who aims to be considered well-dressed. But it is an idealized garment, with little resemblance to the shapeless Newmarket of old. We have secured a sketch of an up-to-date garment, embodying all the new points, which consist chiefly of the circular flounce beginning with the revers and encircling the entire skirt, growing deeper and fuller at the back. The material is a soft, rich shade of tan Melton, with collar and cuff facings of black velvet. At the back, heading the two enormous pleats, are big velvet-covered buttons. Stitched straps are the decoration. This same style of coat is employed for evening and the opera, the back lengthening into an ample train and the entire thing fitted a trifle looser than for street wear.

And now, here is a frock which I am persuaded should be of practical use to you at the moment, being simple, yet sufficiently dressy for all occasions. The material is one of the fine, soft cloths in a beautiful shade of grey (grey you will observe is ultra-smart), the skirt nicely cut but perfectly devoid of trimming. The bodice has a jaunty little basque, shorter at the sides than at the back or front, and an arrangement of velvet ribbon running over the shoulders which is most becoming to the figure.



OF SOFT GREY CLOTH.

ure. The velvet is repeated at the shoulder, outlining the tiny cap of the sleeve, and at the waist where a cluster of handsome buttons in cut steel hold it in place. The guimpe is of yellow string lace over white satin, the tiny collar points and cuffs being of the same stuff. The vest is the goods in rather broad tucks.

For evening wear there are all sorts of dainty bodices, one of which I have chosen, as being among the smartest. The material is yellow crepe de chine over orange satin, the frills embroidered with orange and picked out with tiny jet sequins. Shirred bands decorate sleeves and waist alike.

Grey castor gloves are among the season's novelties and are the correct hand-covering of the moment. Pearl grey suede have superseded white gloves for smart functions. Elastic belts of jet, mock jewels, or cut steels are both becoming and smart. They may be had to match any costume.

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THE UP-TO-DATE NEWMARKET.

black velvet ribbon, while black velvet at the waist and a rosette to finish the high collar make a distinctly chic contrast to the delicate coloring of the gown. This style of long basque with its upward curve in front is becoming

HE only parrot academy on this side of the Atlantic is in New York, and the method of teaching is worth looking into. The birds to be taught are let loose in a room, and with them a bird that can say words of one syllable, such as "cat," "dog," "yes," "no;" he soon teaches them what he knows; then a bird that can say longer words and simple sentences is put in, and when they have learned all he knows, a still more accomplished one is put in. Then the smart ones are finished off by the proprietor; they are taught their letters, figures, how to add and subtract and to spell simple words, by the aid of the blackboard. They are also taught to sing, tell the time, and often to dance. The most stupid parrot will learn to swear—but of course swearing is not one of the branches taught them in their liberal education.

Schools have been established by the British government in India, for the instruction in reading, writing and manners of apes, to judge of their capabilities; one school in Bombay reports that the chances seem good to make reputable beings out of the Simian stock.

Schools have been established by the British government in India, for the instruction in reading, writing and manners of apes, to judge of their capabilities; one school in Bombay reports that the chances seem good to make reputable beings out of the Simian stock.

HE preservation of cut flowers is worth a little study, and the following method will be found a very good one. Before removing the flowers from the box, sprinkle them thoroughly with fresh, cold water; then make a strong soap-suds and put into a large vase and stand the flowers in it. Each morning the flowers must be taken out of the suds, their stems clipped, and laid sideways in clear, cool water. Sprinkle with fresh water and return to the suds. Change the suds every three days and at the end of three weeks compare the flowers with those a day or two old which have been crammed into a vase in the usual way, and you will prefer your own. The strong soap-suds take the place of roots.

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A Pig Hunt in the Dark.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

ISLEEP soundly, but how am I to convey to any one the smallest end of a notion how soundly? The concentrated slumber of an army of toads would be wakefulness itself compared to the deep sleep I go in for. I scorn exaggeration, and merely mention my somnolent powers to enable my readers to realize, at least faintly, what that noise must have been which woke me

as I lay, one wet night, snugly unconscious of all sublunary matters beneath the roof of my bungalow in Malaya. "What the duce is up?" I exclaim, as struggling into wakefulness, I observe my friend H., hastily putting on his nether garments by the light of a tallow dip, stuck with a graceful slant into the neck of a black bottle.

"Pigs; that's all," is his laconic reply. "Come, jump up, old man; we'll have fresh pork for breakfast, or my name isn't what it is."

Meanwhile the din outside the window continues with unabated fury, and I am by this time sufficiently awake to know that it is the aggregate product of manifold canine throats possessing vocal powers of Pandemoniacal variety of expression.

Besides ourselves there were two other inmates of the bungalow on this night, viz; our regular servant, an excitable but trustworthy Hibernian, and a Malay whom we employed now and then to do odd jobs about the place. The head of the latter now appeared at our door, and ejaculating, "Porker, peeg!" immediately disappeared again. On rushing into the next room, we found Dennis, the aforesaid Hibernian, lighting up our great perforated tin lantern, his dark eyes gleaming with delight and excitement.

"What are you going to do with the lantern, Dennis?" asks H., who rightly thinks that in the pig hunt a lantern will be more picturesque than useful.

"Faix, sorr," says Dennis, with a grin, "A'mn't I goin' to light the gentleman that's outside this teemin' night into our bungalow. Dargo's gone to keep his honor in sight."

"Dargo" is the cognomen which Dennis bestowed on the Malay, and one which the latter at first strongly resented; but, overcome at last by Dennis's good-humored persistency, he had come to answer to it, under protest as it were, and sullenly exercising his right to repudiate the name on those arbitrary occasions whensoever his dignity might deem it necessary.

Whilst H. and I had been drawing on our boots, we had heard a violent scuffle in the verandah, then a fierce grunt, a rush, a dismal howl, and then the noise of the dogs had died away over the hill in front of the house. It is a stormy night; the rain had ceased, and the wind has got up and is driving thick masses of clouds across the sky, rendering the wan moon almost useless to us. H., as the best marksman, is armed with our only rifle; I carry a light American axe; and Dennis, over and above the lantern, has armed himself with an instrument something like a stout reaping-hook, with a long, straight handle. Of course, in our belts are stuck the sheath-knives we always carry, and thus accoutred, we go slipping and splashing down the slope on which our residence is situated, across the small gully at the bottom, and are pushing our way through the wet grass, up the hill on the other side, beyond which we can hear the dogs giving tongue as wildly as ever, when we are suddenly aware, by "the straggling moon-beans' misty light," of a gestulating apparition which bears swiftly down upon us. It is "Dargo," who, with rapid and excited gestures, describes the position of the enemy, intimating that he is very large and likely to prove dangerous, and generally recommending caution in our plan of attack. Here we are all agreed, for we have long since acquired that deferential respect for the wild boar that every one does who has had anything to do with the hunting of him. When Dargo, therefore, silently signs for us to follow him, with the confident air of a man who has a defined plan in his head, we immediately accept his guidance. The natives glide away to the left, closely followed by H. with the rifle; I came next and Dennis brings up in the rear with his cherished lantern.

The boar, appears, is sullenly standing bay beside a waterhole in the next gully, protected on his right flank and rear by a tangled thicket, and a kind of thorny bramble. This thicket, though it certainly enabled his porcine majesty to bid defiance to the dogs, was the very thing that Dargo had perceived to be the weakness of his position. Numerous cattle tracks lead down to the waterhole, and guided unerringly by the Malay, though there is only a glimmer of moonlight now and then, we cross the gully higher up, and are soon stealing along in Indian file down one of these narrow, slippery tracks, keeping the thicket as a screen between ourselves and our prey. By this means, while the animal's attention was occupied by the dogs, we hoped to get close enough for H. to get a shot at him in a moment of moonlight.

I confess to feeling anything but confident that he was not making a mistake in the darkness, and leading us down a track up which at any moment the victim of our anticipations might make a sudden charge, a possibility that, hemmed in as we were on either side by tangled brushwood, it was not pleasant to dwell upon. In fact I freely admit that the nearer we ap-

proached that pig the less jovial I felt, and that proximity to the possible pork chops of to-morrow morning, while still in a state of fierce vitality to-night, tended considerably to lessen my enthusiasm concerning those delicacies. However, by some mysterious law of the nervous system which I will not attempt to explain, I enjoyed the very danger which produced my funk.

When about two hundred yards from the spot we wished to reach, Dargo suddenly stopped and pointing back to Dennis's lantern, made signs that it should be put out. To this Dennis strongly objected and only reluctantly complied—as we thought—when H. ordered him to do so. "Huh! peeter he go pack to ped," was the native's contemptuous observation as he jogged on again.

A few minutes more we had got close enough to the scene of action to hear the savage champ, champ of the boar as he whetted his tusks—those terrible tusks, with which with an almost imperceptible jerk of his snout he could lay the strongest dog in the agonies of death. H., guided by Dargo, now creeps up to the thicket before alluded to, and Dennis and I separate, each to station ourselves where we have a chance of getting a blow at the enemy as he runs, should H.'s shot prove ineffectual. I was careful not to place myself directly in a track. To do so would have probably resulted, had the boar chosen that line of retreat, in finding myself knocked a considerable distance into the midst of the approaching week, after having aimed a wild and futile blow at no precise object and reclining on mother earth, with perhaps a gash in the leg and many little stars before my eyes, I should, no doubt, have *felt* that I had made a mistake.

I had been waiting some five or six minutes, axe in hand, anxiously listening for H.'s expected shot. I knew it would take some time to get a chance of firing without the risk of hurting the dogs, and besides, unluckily, the moon was just now obscured by clouds, and so I stood eagerly watching for them to pass over, when with startling suddenness, a few paces from me there streamed forth a red and flickering light, not the momentary flash of a rifle; and besides, there followed no report. But I had no time for conjectures, for the next moment I saw the boar, followed by the madly excited dogs, rushing straight in the direction of the light. There was a roar of anger in H.'s voice and a roar of fright in Dennis's, a canine howl or two, a crash, a groan, a clatter of tin, then sudden darkness again, the boar and dogs having disappeared into the night, as it were, in a sort of wild apotheosis of confusion. H. and I both ran to where the light had been, feeling anything but comfortable about poor Dennis's fate. We found him sitting in a cattle-track, and the moon shining out showed one side of his face thickly coated with mud as he looked up at us with a dazed expression of countenance and a sheepish air of a man who knows he has put his foot in it.

To the inquiry, "Much hurt, Dennis?" he ruefully replied, in a gasping sort of way: "Och, the saints preserve us!—I—don't right—



A CHANCE OF GETTING A BLOW AT THE ENEMY.

ly know—but I—believe I'm alive, though there's more wind—been knocked out—of my body this blessed night—than I ever thought I had in it. There isn't a breath left in me big enough—to fill the lungs of a good-sized m—skitey, so there isn't."

"No bones broken then?" said H.

"Faix, sorr, I hope not; but they're that shook up and mixed like, that I feel for all the world like a bundle of sticks tied up loose."

"Well, but what the devil did you do it for?" said H., who, seeing the culprit wasn't much hurt, thought it time to haul him over the coals a bit.

"Shure, wasn't I showing your honor a light to shute the baste by!" was poor Dennis's apologetic answer.

The fact was that, instead of having extinguished the lantern as we thought he had done, he had merely put it under his loose smock, and by flashing its light onto the boar at the moment he did he had thought, by thus assisting H. in his aim, to cover himself with glory, and to triumph over Dargo, between whom and himself a jealousy always existed. It was a *luminous* idea, but the result was a failure.

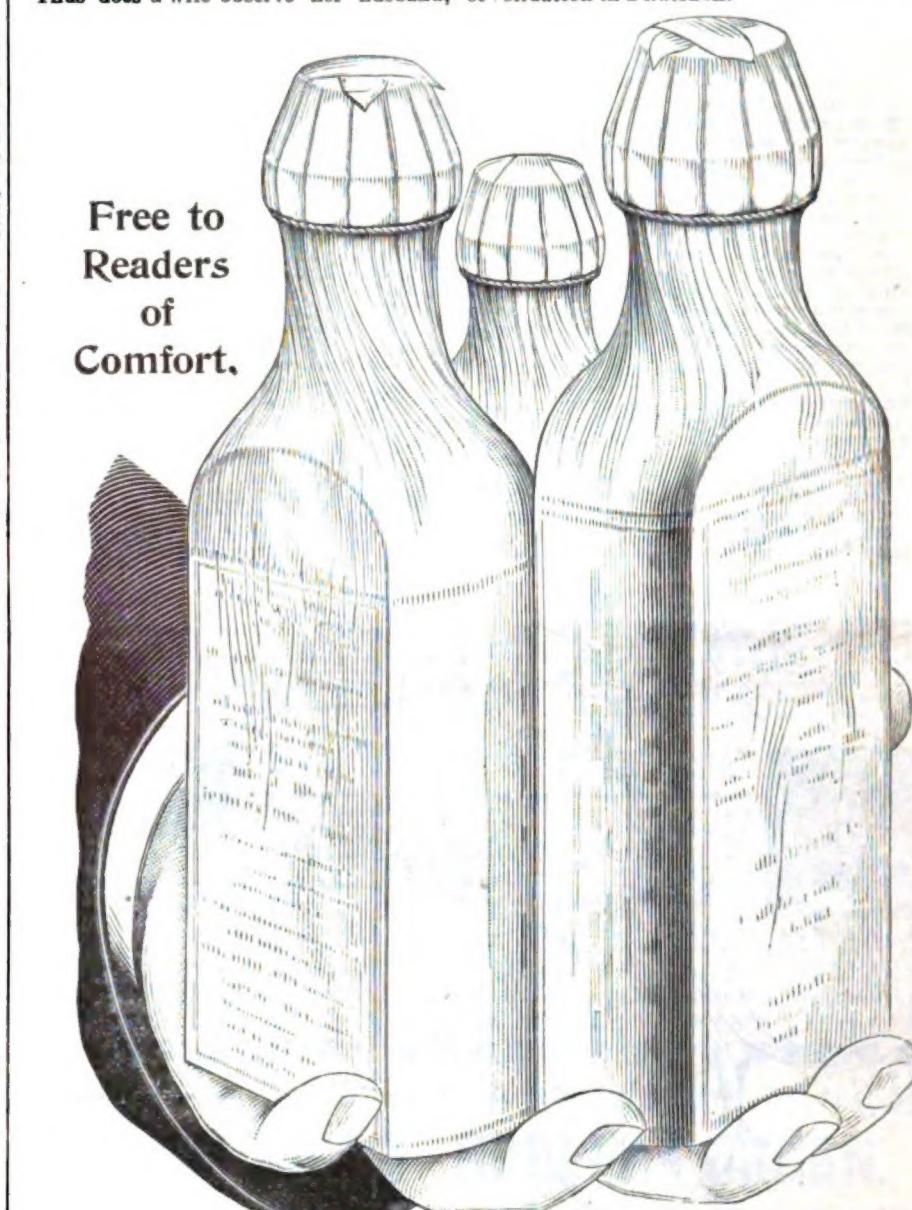
Annoyed and worried by the dogs—of which we had six of all breeds and sizes—the boar had not gone far when he again turned and stood at bay, this time close to a shallow creek, from which we drew our water for household purposes. When, guided by the barking of the dogs, we reached the place—though the sky had cleared we could see no pig, for he had ensconced himself in a clump of fern against the trunk of a fallen tree. This fact was evident enough from the behavior of "Lockjaw," an

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animal half mastiff and half bulldog, whose terrible tenacity of grip had earned him his name. He was walking round and round the clump of fern, on which he kept a watchful eye, every now and then sniffing towards it with a faint whine of impatience. Even he, pluck to the backbone as he was, knew better than to make an attack on such an enemy in his present position. No, get the beast on the move so as to give the dog "half a slant," and with a word of encouragement Lockjaw would unhesitatingly pin by the ear or jowl the biggest pig that ever munched fern root.

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The question now was how to dislodge the game. We might set on the dogs, but that course would probably result in getting one, and most likely the best of them, disabled, we therefore decided on the only other plan there was, namely that of firing into his hiding-place (CONTINUED ON PAGE 16).

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ALTHOUGH it is yet early in the season, manufacturers have already begun their models for the year. The various improvements which have been effected in the wheel during the past two seasons have not left very wide room for improvement in the product of 1899. Although the bevel gear has attained limited popularity, the old style of crank, sprocket and chain will still characterize the wheel. The general frame lines of last year's models will be maintained, although there may be reaction on the part of certain makers against the excessively short head. The short head, it is claimed by some, has been the cause of many frames getting twisted out of alignment because the lower tube running up from the bottom brackets at such a sharp angle there is more sway in the rear section of the machine. The rear wheel does not follow so quickly, and in turning corners sharply or steering through sand the twist on the frame is apt to be serious. This proposition, though, is not generally considered to be of much importance, and, as a rule, the dropped crank hangers and low heads will be retained.

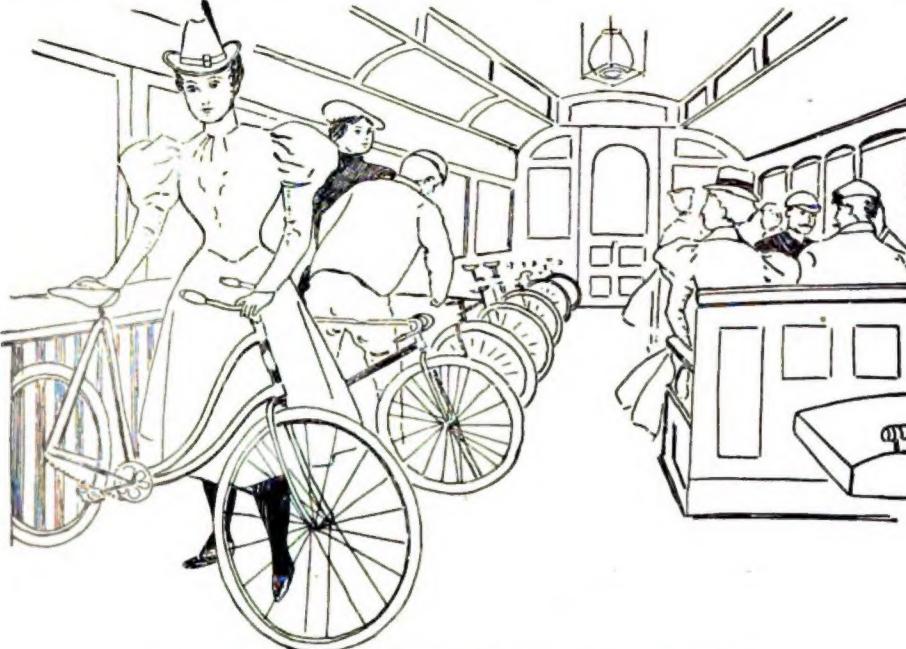
The complaint on the part of some riders against the increased weight of roadsters and their efforts to bring wheels back to a pound or two nearer the scale of 1895 will pass unheeded, for the reason that, with the reduced prices prevailing, manufacturers cannot afford to take such risks on their guarantee as formerly. Lowering the weight of bicycles would mean a slightly increased cost of production and a decrease in the factor of safety. The lighter the wheels, the more liability to breakage, and necessarily an increase in the claims upon the producers for renewals of parts. As a matter of fact, the 1899 product is liable to be a half to one pound heavier than last year's. D-shaped rear forks and back stays will be retained.

Half a dozen makers, it is now known, will make up part of their stock with thirty-inch wheels, which annoys a few of the others, because with wheels thirty inches in diameter frame lines would have to be so altered that it means a complete change of patterns, with the consequent expense of new tools. This annoyance is felt because of the bare possibility of the thirty-inch man creating a demand and

will not feel that he is carrying unnecessary weight. One who rides for pleasure will need a strong wheel, yet he is the rider who wants a light one. One of the most important questions to be settled, then, is the weight. As I have said, the wheels this year weigh more than they did last season, and are two or three pounds heavier than the wheels of the year before last; and it has been found by the experience of two seasons, that about twenty-five pounds is the lightest weight that is desirable in a road wheel.

A wheel should be selected with reference to what will be required of it at critical moments, instead of what it can do on an average, for no one cares to risk a long walk home with a broken machine on his shoulder. There is a tendency toward lower frames this year, the crank hanger being below a line drawn between the hubs of the two wheels. It is claimed that this is a gain in power, and certainly the beginner hasn't so far to fall from the saddle. Probably the most satisfactory saddle will be of the anatomical pattern, of which the Christy is the pioneer. In tires there are several good makes, but the single tube is now the favorite. When it comes to accessories, the purchaser finds any number of good things, new and old. In the matter of accessories it can be said that they should be selected with the same care as the wheel itself. Of lamps it may be said that a new thing at the show this year, and one which shows an improvement over all others, is one that has a swinging bracket and stands perpendicular, even when the wheel is laid on one side.

The new cushion frame device is totally unlike former so-called spring frames. There is no teetering or rebounding. It is a comfortable seat on the saddle at all times. There is no losing of pedals, no loss of power, and it is claimed to be a much faster frame than the rigid frame. Those who have ridden over rough roads and cobblestones will appreciate this new invention, because it permits them to ride on any kind of a road without jolting or jarring. In jumping car tracks and any kind of reasonable obstructions there is no loss of speed. In construction the new cushion frame is simple and effective. No change whatever is made in the general lines of the frame, the cushion action being entirely concealed in the tubing over the rear wheel. The device proper is composed of pneumatic telescoping tubes,



BICYCLE CAR USED ON NEW YORK ELEVATED, LAST SUMMER.

finding market not open to the rest. As cycles with thirty-inch wheels are necessarily bigger and heavier, and, being more costly to make, are held at higher prices, they are not likely to appeal to the scorching element or to the great middle class of buyers who want medium prices. Large-sized riders who have large purses and exclusive ideas are apt to furnish the chief market for this type of cycle, and it is in recognition of these conditions that the majority of makers are holding aloof from the experiment. The fact that the larger the wheel the less vibration there is for the frame and the rider is about the strongest virtue in the thirty-inch wheels, although it is true, also, that the increased size of the frame permits of a greater drop at the crank hanger.

It is worth noting that there seems to be an increase in the number of those who ride the bicycle for pleasure and recreation—in other words, tourist riders. That manufacturers are recognizing the claims of this class of riders is apparent from the number of designs of "road wheels" which are shown in their catalogues. It is recognized by all the manufacturers that there is no one "best" bicycle. The sensible rider will no more seek a road wheel on which he can ride track races than he would of buying a dray horse which should also be a racer. While each manufacturer may claim that the wheels which he makes are the best in their class, he has found it necessary to make different classes according to the needs of the rider. The prospective purchaser, therefore, must first decide for what purpose he wishes a bicycle, and having settled that point, he can spend half a day profitably in examining models at different places.

To begin with, it is presumed that the buyer is looking for a wheel which will be generally serviceable; that is to say, one that will be firm and heavy enough to stand the wear and tear of country roads and rough city pavements, and yet will be light enough so that he

will not feel that he is carrying unnecessary weight. One who rides for pleasure will need a strong wheel, yet he is the rider who wants a light one. One of the most important questions to be settled, then, is the weight. As I have said, the wheels this year weigh more than they did last season, and are two or three pounds heavier than the wheels of the year before last; and it has been found by the experience of two seasons, that about twenty-five pounds is the lightest weight that is desirable in a road wheel.

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Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented by the express agent our special introductory price of \$3.75 and it is yours. Only 25 cents to cover the cost at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want gent's or lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for sixty days only. Address R. E. CHALMERS & CO., 356 Dearborn St., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

OPIUM HABIT AND MORPHINE Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Asia, Fort Wayne, Ind.

CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, Send Now—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Magic Fortune Teller.

A most wonderful invention. Tells past, present and future. Answers every question spoken into it. Advises on any subject. Great fun. Delivered on receipt of 25c. Arlington Novelty Co., Box 325 L, Arlington, N. J.

THE MAGICAL SPONGE. THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and cost only 25c for each. Just the article we wanted last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the magical sponge is a man-made invention and found in the United States. Being so strong, durable, elastic and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liverman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, office, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No soap or water is needed or even used with the magical sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) it does not stain. It is a great time-saver. Cleaning Boards, Window Sills, Wainscoting and painted surfaces. It acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

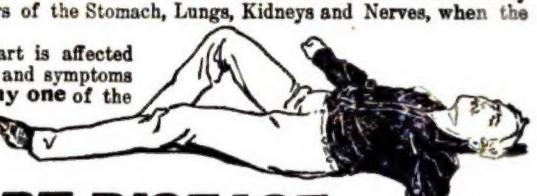
Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send sample post paid and make them a business proposition. Write at once, and mention your territory.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

YOU MAY BE NEXT

One person out of every four has a weak or diseased heart, and still very few people are aware of it. The trouble is that most doctors don't understand heart troubles. They very often treat patients for disorders of the Stomach, Lungs, Kidneys and Nerves, when the trouble is in the heart itself.

You can tell whether your heart is affected better than a physician. The signs and symptoms are sure and certain. If you have any one of the following symptoms, you are in grave danger, and may be the next victim to drop dead.



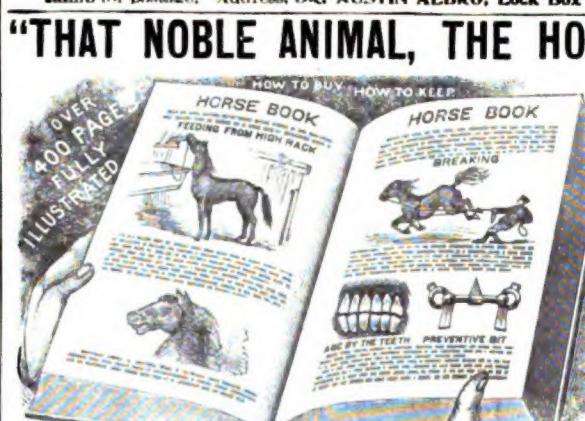
Symptoms of HEART DISEASE

Fluttering, Palpitation, or Skipping Beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); Shortness of Breath from going up stairs, walking, etc.; Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; Fainting Spells; Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep; Dreaming, Nightmare; Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Dropsey; Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs); Neuralgia Around the Heart; Sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

MEDICINE SENT FREE. I have a positive cure in my Heart Tablets for this most dreaded of all diseases. I am daily curing hundreds of men and women.

To show my confidence in my Heart Tablets, I will send, postpaid, a box for trial absolutely free to any sufferers who will send their name and address. This liberal offer should be accepted at once, because heart disease is always fatal, and death comes like a flash of lightning. Enclose stamp for postage. Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Lock Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

"THAT NOBLE ANIMAL, THE HORSE." YOU WANT IT.



THE GREATEST and BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN on HORSES.

A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars.

Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America, has at last consented to write a book on the Horse. We have made arrangement to furnish copies of this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. Gleason's Horse Book is a truly wonderful book, containing over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, bound in colored covers and richly and elegantly illustrated with 186 full plates and illustrations drawn by special artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the United States Government. Prof. Gleason's Horse Book has been sold as high as \$25.00 a volume until now. Gleason's Horse Book is now being offered at a price of \$12.00 a volume, and we believe it will be a great success. Gleason's Horse Book is now being offered at a price of \$12.00 a volume, and we believe it will be a great success.

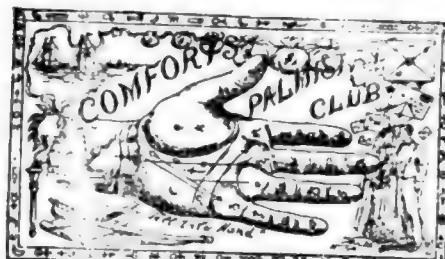
Invaluable Study of the Diseases and Treatment of the animal. Prof. Gleason's Horse Book is now being offered at a price of \$12.00 a volume, and we believe it will be a great success. Gleason's Horse Book is now being offered at a price of \$12.00 a volume, and we believe it will be a great success.

Great Club Premium. If you will get up a club of only two years

25 cents each we will send you the book as a free premium.

NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

COMFORT.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

IT seems necessary to call attention again to the rules that govern this department; especially the conditions for obtaining a reading here. Please remember that all applicants must send in four new subscribers with the price of the yearly subscription in every case. Also, the name of the sender must be given in the same package as the impressions, for purposes of identification; otherwise they will not be read at all.

The first hand to be read this month belongs to "May S." and a very complicated hand, having many broken and fine lines. It denotes a very nervous and highly sensitive person, one who will see many changes in life. Most of these, however, will be for the better, as there is a steady advance throughout life, which will be long and successful. This person has great tact and strong will power. She can gain great power over the masses, and if she adopts a public career will be remarkably successful in it. She is fond of music and of art, but if she adopts the stage or the lecture platform will find she has made no mistake, although she will meet with some obstacles at first. She will meet with opposition from her own people during the earlier part of her career, but she will persevere and will end with both fame and money. She will be popular with the opposite sex, but her mind is really set on something more than love and matrimony, and she will not make these her first object in life. These good things will come, however, in their own good time. She will receive the most admiration from men from thirty to forty and her most serious love affairs will come then. She is a very ambitious woman, and her "dreams will all come true." That is, she will be successful and by the time she is forty-five will be a very distinguished woman. If she is young now this may seem a long time to wait, but remember that no one has ever yet achieved distinction without working a long time for it, and that honors cheaply won are not prized at all. There is a great deal of good in this hand and a highly artistic temperament. If anything "May S." lacks in courage to go ahead on her own lines. She is bound down too much to the opinions of others. Perseverance and the courage of her own convictions are what she needs to cultivate. Do not be easily discouraged, for there is every indication of success; so whatever you make up your mind that you want to do or to be in life, that go to work at with a will. With such a hand as this there is no such word as "fail."

"Inventor" is the next to come under our inspection this month. This hand shows wonderful inventive genius. This is straightforward nature, one that makes many friends and few enemies. In early life she was bound down by the rules of some one else older than she, and she has felt the lack of self-confidence ever since; but she has found her own footing now and loves to study up new improvements for the good of her kind. She will turn this to good account and will succeed as an inventor. She ought to patent all her inventions and so protect her own ideas and reap the benefits of them herself; otherwise she will be liable to encounter infringements and troubles of that nature. She will marry but once and that about the age of thirty. I cannot tell by the impression before me whether she will have children or not. I should judge not, however. She will be successful for the most part, but will not live to a very great age, that is not beyond the age of sixty or so. She has great tact and will always make herself useful to the community where she lives. Her life will be spent in the same vicinity, although she will travel somewhat during the earlier part. Her inventions will prove lucrative in some degree, though she will never be very wealthy.

"Lygia's" hand is of a very different type. She will marry young and be quite happy for ten or twelve years. Then she will be left a widow and will marry again when she is about the age of thirty-five. I think her second husband will outlive her. She has a very amiable, sweet disposition and has hosts of friends. She is imaginative, fond of reading, of music and pictures. The opposite sex are quite devoted to her and always will be, as this is the sort of women that men adore. She is fascinating in her manners and witty in conversation, understanding the art of making each hearer feel that she listens with the deepest interest to what he has to say. In short, she is sympathetic with every one who comes into her circle. She will have one or two children who will love her devotedly. On the whole this hand indicates a happy and beloved person if not a great career.

"Althea" has a hand indicating a great deal of character and promise for the future. It is a hand with exceptionally good lines in many respects; strongly marked and indicative of success. She is a person of great tact, good judgment, and is well fitted to get along with

other people. In whatever dealings she has with others she will be gracious, tactful and helpful. She is of a philosophical turn of mind and scientific. She is fond of scientific studies and will succeed in any that she may undertake. In medicine especially she will find her vocation. There are many lines rising from the life line, especially up to the age of fifty. These all indicate success, and some of them success of the most marked character. She is very ambitious,

and the star on Jupiter indicates that she will succeed in her ambitions. She will have some hard battles to fight, however, before she wins success, and these will all come between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five. She is, however, fitted to fight all the battles that are necessary to win success, as she has perseverance, courage and energy and she will not give up when she undertakes a thing. On this account she will succeed, and will become distinguished even in some branches which she undertakes. There will be one journey in her life, about middle life, which will contribute to her success and will probably extend into foreign lands. She will go abroad to study, or in some way connected with her business or profession. It will be a very successful trip, as in fact all that she undertakes contributes in the end to her success; although there may be some fighting of obstacles to do before she wins success. I think she will marry twice, and the last marriage will be more successful and perhaps happier than the first, although there are no indications of serious unhappiness which she does not overcome. I am much pleased with this hand and would encourage the owner of it to go forward in her scientific studies and to carry them on as far as possible as she has the qualities for success in a marked degree.

Several hands come to me in plaster of paris which is apt to crack and break up, and in putty which almost invariably peels off. Smoked paper impressions are far preferable to any other if properly treated with fixatif. The latter is a preparation of diluted gum arabic, which can be obtained at any druggist's or wherever artists' materials are sold. It is to be sprayed over the fresh impressions with an atomizer.

I will start off the new year by repeating the directions for taking impressions, and I wish you would all pay close heed to them.

Take a large sheet of white paper, legal cap or commercial note. Hold it carefully over an oil or spirit lamp, or better yet, a lighted candle. Hold it near enough the flame so that the smoke will leave a fine black deposit without burning the paper. When the paper is well smoked, lay it, smoked-side up on a flat board or table (without a cloth). Then place the right hand, palm downward, firmly on the paper, pressing hard.

Without moving it a hair's breadth. Hold it so a minute, then take up quickly without disturbing in the least the impressions made. Have ready some artists' fixatif (procureable at any store where artists' materials are kept) in an atomizer. With the latter squeeze sufficient of the fixatif over the impression made to keep it from rubbing. This gives an indelible impression.

If you will secure a club of four subscribers at 50 cents per year and send same with money and impression of your palm, we will be pleased to read same, and reading will appear in the earliest possible issue of COMFORT.

Digitus

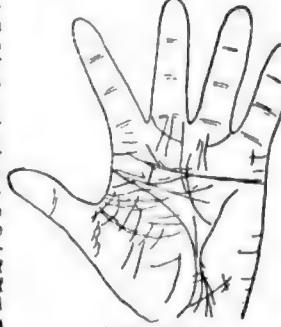
Strange New Shrub that Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.

We have previously described the new botanic discovery, Alkavis, which proves a specific cure for diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disorder of the Kidneys or urinary organs. It is now stated that Alkavis is a product of the well-known Kava-Kava Shrub, and is a specific cure for these diseases, just as quinine is for malaria. Hon. R. C. Wood of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks Alkavis cured him of Rheumatism and Kidney and bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies also testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. The only importers of Alkavis so far are the Church Kidney Cure Co., of 409 Fourth Avenue, New York, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of COMFORT, who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, difficult or too frequent passing water, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative power.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

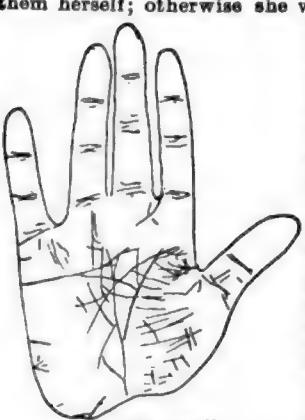
50 lbs. BEST GRANULATED SUGAR \$1.00
We sell 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for \$1, and all other brands at lowest wholesale prices. SEND NO MONEY, but enclose 7 cents postage for catalogue quoting 50 lbs. best granulated sugar for \$1.00 and many other bargains.
U. S. SUPPLY HOUSE,
(Salmon's Wanted) Dept. H, Chicago, Ill.



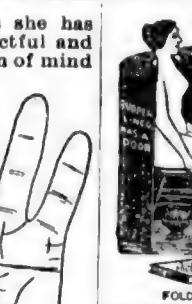
"LYGIA."



"MAY S."



"INVENTOR."



"ALTHEA."

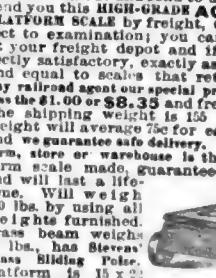


"CHILD LOST"

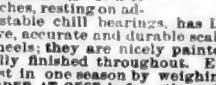


"BOYS & GIRLS"

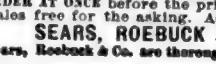
"SEND ONE DOLLAR"



"GARANTEED 10 YEARS."



"KOIN MONEY."



"HOME EMPLOYMENT for Men and Women"



"HOLD YOUR COIN"



"GOLD WATCH OR RING FREE!"



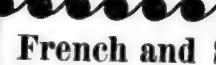
"STANDARD PERFUME CO., Dept. C 168 Elm Street, New York City."



"AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN."



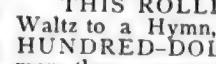
"COMFORT."



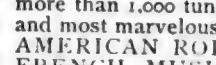
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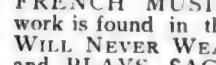
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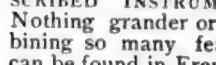
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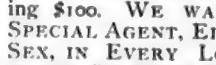
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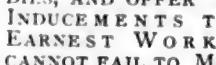
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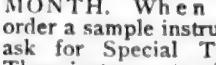
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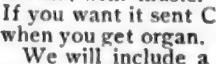
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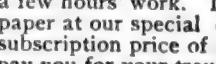
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Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

Boston Office, Hanover Building.
New York Office, Tribune Building. Chicago Office, Marquette Building.

**Guaranteed Circulation:
ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES,
Each and Every Issue,
Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.**

Now that we have actually reached "fin-de-siecle" we hear nothing of the phrase that answered for every situation in life a year ago. Worn out before it actually had the right to live! 1899 is "close of the century" but no one says it in French.

"A Happy New Year!" The phrase seems stereotyped but a mental review of the situation at the opening of 1899 warrants the reality of the fulfillment. Peace within our borders, prosperity at our gates and the last year of the century suggesting a promise for the future. A "Happy New Year" in very truth.

One of the most popular plays for some years was a farcical affair named "Too Much Johnson." A glance at some curios in the line of statistics would incline a whimsical observer to the idea that the title might have originated in a knowledge of Chicago statistics. The prevalence of certain names is indicated in this table and Chicago enjoys the proud distinction of being the only large city that has not an excess of Smiths over every other name in the calendar. Chicago has more Johnsons than citizens of any other name.

France furnishes entertainment to the other nations of Europe of the continuous variety order. From rapid changes in her form of government she has grown to rapid changes in the parties administrating government. Volatile, fickle, easily excited, passionate and willful has been the France of the last twenty-five years. The close student of affairs can however discern signs of growing moral steadiness in the attitude of France during the last few months. It was the saner part of the French people who insisted and forced a revision of the famous Dreyfus affair. With the press and people of Europe clamoring and seemingly endeavoring to bring on a conflict, France possessed a calm course in the Fashoda matter. Whether a republican form of government can be successful with the Latin races is an open question. France has not yet answered it in the affirmative, but a growing strength in the moral fiber of her people has been noted in the last two points of difficulty that the government has been obliged to settle.

Sometimes an almost forgotten voice from the past sounds like a prophecy when heard through the medium of the present. In 1584, Richard Hakluyt wrote one of the first English books concerning America. The object was to interest Queen Elizabeth in the new lands. Spain and England were then on the verge of war. The treasure that made Spain the leading nation of the world came largely from America. Hakluyt pointed out to the queen that the wisest move was to deprive Philip of his West Indian possessions. He says: "If you touch him in the Indies, you touch the apple of his eyes, for to take away his treasure which he hath at most out of his West Indies, his old bandes of soldiars well soone be dissolved, his purpose defeated, his pride abated and his tyrannie utterly suppressed. He shall be left bare as Esop's crawe." Three hundred and fourteen years have passed since those meaning words were uttered. During all that time the West Indies have continued to pour riches into the coffers of Spain. It was not England but England's great daughter that at last has left Spain "bare as Esop's crawe." In this same connection the comment of an early traveler upon the national and inevitable commercial relations between the United States and the Philippines is another seeming prediction that has come true.

Cornell University has inaugurated a movement commendable in its purpose and far reaching in its results. The College of Agriculture has noted with regret the growing tendency of the young people to leave farm or country life and to flock to the cities. It has been thought that this was not altogether due to the desire to escape the hard struggle of country life. The average boy upon the farm has hours of leisure when the lad employed in the city has minutes. It is a harder mental and physical task to sustain existence in the city than in the country. The attraction of the city lies in the many interests and amusements that it furnishes so liberally to its citizens. Cornell University wishes to make country life as interesting to the people living there as city life is to the town dwellers. There is a living, breathing world about the dweller in the country but he has not been trained to observe it. Plants, birds, flowers, insects, all tell a story of wonderful interest but even the alphabet of this thrilling story is unknown to the people best placed to read it. With the purpose of making "Nature Study" a part of the everyday life of the people, Cornell has sent a bright young woman familiar with every detail of national science into each meeting of teachers in the state. She carries specimens with her and in a simple, direct, forcible manner she interests the teachers in the subject matter that God has placed all around them. Through the 30,000 teachers of the state it is believed the children can be trained to an observation that will add a new interest to their lives and a new element of beauty and kindness to their development into men and women. Cornell also sends out free printed matter to all interested in Nature Study. More than a thousand teachers a month are sending in requests for this material. The movement is one of great educational and popular interest. Aside from the immediate effect upon the individual child whose senses are trained by this observation of reality, is this element of making country life attractive.

Each year brings some new development in altruistic movements. People are struggling to solve the problem not alone of how to live but of how to live well. The man who has any plan or idea that looks towards the better use of life finds eager listeners. One of the latest developments of this line of work is the People's Institute of New York City. It numbers among its incorporators and advisory names that have long been prominent in all the philosophical and philanthropical work of the last decade. A series of free lectures are planned to continue from November until May. The larger number of these are to be held in the great hall of Cooper Union. Those in all lines of work who have attained prominence are in the list of speakers, leading members of the faculty of universities, men prominent in labor or social reform or any one who has a message to give to man. The Monday lectures are upon Nineteenth Century History and include a discussion of the place of each of the Great Powers in the history of the century. The Friday programme is upon Present Problems and the list of lectures indicate the idea of the directors as to what the problems of the day are. Among the lectures are: "Our New Territories and the Problems They Offer;" Lyman Abbott speaks upon "Our New Responsibilities" and Titus Coan speaks upon Hawaii as he is the author of several books on the subject; "Bolivar and the Spanish American War of Independence," "Cuba and Porto Rico," "The Philippines," "The Philippines and a Colonial Policy," and "What We May Learn from Spain" are among other topics. Booker Washington speaks upon "Race Problem in the United States." Samuel Gompers speaks upon "The Rough Struggle and the Noble Aspirations of Labor." Edward Everett Hale speaks upon "Emerson as an Interpreter of Life Problems." These lectures are followed by discussion. They are designed for the people. No man is too elevated in station or rich in purse or advanced intellectually to be beyond the helpful influence of these vivid presentations of the life of the century. On the other hand no laborer or even wanderer in the streets of the city is excluded. The Institute aims to show first "the brotherhood of man" and the unity of human life and effort. It is a great work and an interesting development of the helpful hopeful spirit of the century. Long life to the People's Institute.

The year just closing has been one of the greatest moment to the United States. The turning point of the roads seems to have been reached but we have not yet gone far enough in the new path to determine with what success or ill we shall tread it or where its end may be. One year ago the man who should have predicted that the United States within a year would acquire possessions on the opposite side of the world would have been considered a madman. Many of the most conservative of our thinkers and students do not favor the new doctrine of colonial expansion. They point to the fact that we as a nation have not made a brilliant success of our treatment of the Indian and neither have we yet solved the race problem presented in the South. Incidentally both those alien races are within the government of the national or state laws. The great mass of the American people are however cheerfully optimistic. In spite of the fact that the Anglo Saxon race from the time of its earliest contact with "Indians" and throughout its varied experiences with "lesser breeds without the law" has not been particularly successful with savage races, they anticipate few difficulties with the savage millions that will be dependent upon them. It is a problem too deep to solve by surmise or plausible probabilities. It is a problem that will tax the powers of the nation for years to come. It will not be successfully solved in this generation or the next. We may feel joy at our magnificent territorial expansion but we must feel solemn and weighty obligation. Theories must become acts when the Philippines are ours. The men at the head of affairs will have responsibilities greater even than those of the founders of this republic. We can only reassure ourselves by turning from the heavy responsibility and the puzzling new questions and realizing that the great nation that has assumed them is honest, earnest, progressive and buoyant with a belief in itself. Many people have urged that in order to be consistent this country could not avail itself of the territory it had conquered. We entered the war to force Spain to it a right course in Cuban matters and we leave it with a new doctrine of imperialism and of territorial expansion contrary to all precedents of our govern-

ment. In regard to this last claim it might be considered that the United States is too young a nation to have set all the precedents that will influence its history. We are only ten years past the century mark as a nation, and the precedents of Washington's administration are yet new in the face of the lengthy history of other nations. We have a precedent for a change of motive in our wars. Our great war of independence was not entered for that purpose. For over a year the Continental Army was fighting for the principle "no taxation without representation." It was only after over a year of fighting that we determined to change the battle to a war for independence. Patrick Henry and even Washington himself were not convinced of the wisdom of that change of motive but both lived to heartily endorse it. The Civil War was entered upon solely to demonstrate the principle "No Secession" but it ended in "No Slavery." We have been able to meet the war issues that were unexpected and unpremeditated—and we can do so again.

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187 Austrian Waltz, Op. 100	Pacher
27 Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive	Anderson
119 Beanties of Parades Waltz, 4 hands	Streicher
65 Bells of Cornville, Potpourri	Elson
36 Black Hawk Waltz	Wish
51 Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18 Boston Commandery March	Carter
109 Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67 Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133 Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Cerny
1 Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145 Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Misund
47 Cleveland's March	Noles
47 Colorful Races Galop	Wheeler
81 Constance, Romance	Fink
33 Conqueror, Flower Waltzes	Cook Jr.
41 Crack Four March	Ashton
71 Crystal Dow Waltz	Durkee
163 Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Notes
117 Echoing Trumpets March	Darkee
121 Electric Light Galop	Robinson
91 Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Simons
107 Ethel Polka	Stoddard
155 Evergreen Waltz	Leybach
77 Fifth Nocturne	Lasades
69 Flying in the Starlight, Waltz	Sprandler
97 Frolic Life	Watson
177 Frolics of the Frogs	Yuliano
49 Golden Rain, Nocturne	Galop
187 Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Misund
53 Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schulz
185 Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173 Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
190 Home, Sweet Home, Transcription	Stack
139 Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Ross
17 Jenny Lind polka, Four hands	Muller
157 Lisa Hope, Meditation	Gottschall
43 Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159 Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Darkee
41 London March—Two Step	Misund
99 Marion Prayer, The	Badrzweiss
45 McKinley and Hobart March	Parfitt
65 Memorial Day March	Wright
131 Monastery Bell, Nocturne	Blake
89 Morning Dew, op. 18	South
61 Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137 My Love Polka	Zichner
125 My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	Cook
87 National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	Blake
175 Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Killak
135 Old Folks at Home, Transcription	Blake
171 Old Oaken Bucket, The, Variations	Darkee
83 Orwells Waltz	Spencer
101 Over the Water, Waltz	Adams
78 Please Do Waltz	Darkee
167 Red, White and Blue Forever, March	Blake
143 Richmond March—two-step	Misund
83 Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127 Rustling Leaves, Idylle	Lange
39 Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	Cohen
149 Salem Witches March—Two Step	Misund
75 Scherzettino, op. 48	Gulinard
189 Schubert's Serenade, Transcription	Liss
161 Silvery Waves, Variations	Woman
169 Smith's (General) March	Martin
31 Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
100 Souvenir March Song of 1885 K. T. Parade Dow	South
22 Sweetest Waltz	South
151 Storm, The, Imitation of Nature	Wheeler
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103 Triton's Grand March, op. 182	Arbuckle
57 Twilight Echoes, Song without words	Wedel
113 Under the Double Eagle March	Jewell
129 Venetian Waltz	Ludorff
26 Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
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93 Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
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RED CROSS MARCH.

WM. C. HAMILTON.

TRIO.

V1 *V2*

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THE SEASON OF MUSIC.

Entertainments in the Cities in Full Swing.

How the Art has Grown in the Country Through Popular Methods.

There has never been a year when the musical city organizations have been doing so much and planning so many of the popular musical evenings as the present one. All kinds of evening entertainments as well as afternoon gatherings are being held to cultivate and encourage the growing taste for musical pleasure. The growth of popular concerts of mixed vocal and instrumental music is something phenomenal, and almost every city or town that boasts of an orchestra, a musical club or even a Brass band has arranged a series of popular

Nothing pleases more at all of these entertainments than the productions written in march time. We have pointed out frequently how outward affairs have always influenced the character of popular music and just now when our country is emerging from a great war the hearts of our people more readily respond to anything having the martial air. For this reason every march having what is called a "military swing" to it catches instantly the popular favor, and this same favor is extended to all songs on the stage in the same

The military spirit which comes to every country once every generation is in full flood in America and the whole popular taste trends in that direction in every popular fancy or fad. Throughout the autumn the various meetings of semi-military organizations such as the Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias and many other large bodies have given ample opportunity for the display of military enthusiasm in marching, parading etc. Probably no finer sight could be imagined than the great parade of Knights Templar at Pittsburg last October on the occasion of their triennial conclave. As usual the musical composers were alive to the occasion with many creditable compositions; but only one had that great merit

which will make it permanently popular.

We refer to the Red Cross March published in this number by permission of S. Hamilton, Pittsburg, Pa., and written by William C. Hamilton of the same city. On this grand occasion when nearly twenty thousand knights marched in the parade, and when fully four hundred thousand people visited the city no one air received such honor and attention as the march now published on this page. Its success was instantaneous and the first edition of 5000, much to the surprise of its owners, was sold with phenomenal rapidity.

The march was written in honor of the Tancred Commandery of Pittsburg and was the official march of the escort of the Grand Commander of the United States and was played by many of the other bands, along almost the entire route of the parade, eight miles. It also headed every official program at the different headquarters wherever dances were in order or orchestras and bands were used and its resulting sale in sheet form was a surprise to all who know the difficulties of introducing a new

It is pleasant to remember that as the musical art is becoming more generally known and appreciated among the people, modern methods advanced as in any other field are taking the place of the old-fashioned ways that seem to have always prevailed in the publication of music. The demand makes competition in production; and that in turn leads to lower prices. This is why the old high prices are gradually disappearing; it is this that places the best sheet music in the hands of the poor as well as the rich; it is this that allows any person with a natural taste for music to be no longer debarred from its pleasures on account of excessive cost. The old day of high prices is slowly passing and the new one of good material at reasonable rates is with us.

Nothing has more helped in this great advance of musical culture among the masses than the course that COMFORT has adopted in putting out the very best music in sheet form at the lowest possible price. Instead of paying a dollar or a half dollar for a single sheet of music, under COMFORT's great mutual benefit plan the music lover receives the very best in full size words, notes and sheet for a trifling above the cost of postage. Often people who have not taken advantage of the wonderful offer doubt what is promised. We can only

say we will gladly refund the money should the music not prove on examination exactly what we promise. "Think I have a bargain," says Frank H. Camp, 1110 Madison St., St. Louis, a man living right in one of the largest cities of the Union, and right where great city bargains often temptations.

"It is perfectly satisfactory. I am very much obliged to you for the prompt delivery," writes Mrs. W. C. Davis, Richmond, Va. Another city inhabitant that knows what a music bargain means. So you see it is appreciated everywhere. "The music is much better than I expected and is gotten up much better than some I have paid 40 cents to 75 cents for," writes Will S. Catlin, Blairsville, Pa., after testing the offer. "I got music that was cheap but I never struck such a sale as this," is the testimony of Lucia Robbins, Box 44, Waverly, Mo. And so we might go on indefinitely copying the words of delighted people who have tried our plan.

of delighted people who have tried our plan. On another page will be found a long list of varied music which forms as a whole the choicest and best collection of music ever offered the public. Every piece is a selected gem and as a whole they form a grand lot. The most wonderful feature is the almost ridiculously low price you get the music at under the offer. Even if you do not want it yourself, you have hundreds of friends who would appreciate your kindness if you would use the offer and give them the music; or, if you cannot do that, at least oblige them by showing them this copy of *COMFORT* and asking them to read the list and the offer. Remember we guarantee satisfaction.

Our previous offers have had many pieces but in this one are a lot of new ones of great beauty and undoubted merit, among which we mention: 69. Flirting in the Starlight, a beautiful waltz; 185. Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still, ever popular; 74, In Sweet September; 188, In the Starlight. Both of which are gems. These and any of the others will please those who are looking for a bargain in music, such as was never before heard of.

AUSTRALIA:

AUSTRALIA has been called a "fossil continent" because it presents types of life which have perished or become insignificant elsewhere. About the beginning of the Tertiary period of geology a convulsion of nature severed the connection which at one time existed between Australia and Asia, and from that time the former has been left to develop herself. Wallace's Line, a belt of deep sea that cuts through the Malay Archipelago, and all the fauna south of this line, except many of the birds and a few animals that have been carried there recently, are of a special and characteristic type. At the time of the severance small creatures of the marsupial or kangaroo type prevailed all over the world. In Australia these have developed slowly and undisturbed. In the rest of the world they were obliged to give way before stronger animals, till at length no advanced marsupial is left, with the exception of the opossum. The hairy birds such as the apteryx, belonging to a type extinct elsewhere, and finally much of the vegetation—the gum trees, the casuarinas and the wiry undergrowth—is survival from the floras of past geological ages.

PEACE WITH SPAIN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



T last the long considered treaty of peace between America and Spain has actually been signed by the Commissioners of the two countries holding the conference in Paris. As our readers will remember, COMFORT a short time ago described the method by which the protocol of peace was signed at Washington by our Secretary of State, W. H. Day, and by M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, acting for Spain. This protocol, or preliminary articles of peace provided for the meeting of the joint Commissioners at Paris to settle definitely the formal and final terms of the treaty. This now comes before the United States Senate for ratification and will need a two-thirds vote for acceptance, which it will undoubtedly have, as no party will seriously oppose its acceptance and so discredit the country's representation.

Until the administration shall make public the terms of the treaty its exact contents cannot be given, but there is no reasonable doubt for believing that the reports sent by the great news-gathering unions to the newspapers are spoken by card; and that the terms there appearing are reasonably accurate. On Saturday December 10th, the Commission met for the last time at half-past three in the afternoon. At that hour the treaty had not been entirely engrossed and was brought into the session in sections as rapidly as copied.

At this historic meeting, which signalled the end of Spanish rule in the New World, the Americans appeared first, and, half an hour later were followed by the Spaniards, with whom they shook hands; but this did not relieve the Spaniards of the look of excessive solemnity and care that gave a funeral appearance to the occasion. After a careful reading of the treaty and a recess, the signatures were affixed to the important document at quarter to nine o'clock in the evening.

A slightly amusing fact came from the great contest among friends and relatives of the Americans for the possession of the pens with which the signatures to the treaty were written. It is told that some of the Americans provided themselves with very handsome ones for this purpose; but the Spaniards, who appeared unaffected by the souvenir craze and were absolutely indifferent contented themselves with the ordinary quill pens which were strewn upon the table. No sooner had Señor Montero Ríos, the Chairman of the Spanish Commissioners affixed his signature than an American interpreter requested him for the pen, saying: "Have you any desire to preserve the pen with which you will sign?"

"Not in the slightest," said the Spaniard, with a courtly salute to the interpreter, at the same time handing him the quill, with which he had signed the famous document which had been prepared by Secretary Moore for the Americans and Secretary Señor Villarutia for the Spaniards, and which appeared in parallel columns in the two languages in every copy.

The treaty which was finally signed as given to the representatives of the press, although not in accurate form, is as follows: Article 1 provides for the relinquishment of Cuba; article 2, provides for the cession of Porto Rico; article 3, provides for the cession of the Philippines for \$20,000,000 as a compensation; article 4, embraces the plans for the cession of the Philippines, including the return of Spanish prisoners in the parts of Tagalos; article 5, deals with the cession of the barracks, war material, arms, stores, buildings and all property appertaining to the Spanish administration in the Philippines; article 6, is a renunciation by both nations of their respective claims against each other and the citizens of others; article 7, grants to Spanish trade and shipping in the Philippines the same treatment as American trade for a period of 10 years. Article 8, provides for the release of all prisoners of war held by Spain and of all prisoners held by her for political offenses committed in the colonies acquired by the United States; article 9, guarantees the legal rights of Spaniards remaining in Cuba; article 10, establishes religious freedom in the Philippines and guarantees to all churches equal rights; article 11, provides for the composition of courts and other tribunals in Porto Rico and Cuba; article 12, provides for the administration of justice in Porto Rico and Cuba; article 13, provides for the continuance for five years of Spanish copyright in the ceded territories; article 15, grants

within six months from date of signing by the respective governments in order to be binding.

This war between the United States and Spain began April 21, 1898, the date being named in the act of Congress as April 25, declaring state of war existed. The protocol of peace was signed August 12. Actual fighting lasted 114 days, while from the beginning of the war to the signing of peace, December 10, the entire period was 233 days. The results of the war in transfer of valuable colonies and territory are probably unequalled in history.

The possession of the Philippines is something that was never considered in the list of possibilities a year ago. At that time our readers will remember that the entire talk was of the sufferings of the Cubans through the misrule of the Spaniards. If war must come it was to be entirely on the ground of humanity, and not of conquest. It is doubtful if outside a few persons, then called "Jingoes" in derision, there were a handful of Americans who had the slightest wish or desire for colonial possessions. The whole course of the nation for more than a century had been founded on the Monroe Doctrine which was simply an announcement that while we would not meddle with the affairs of European nations, American governments were to be left to themselves without European intervention in their affairs.

Admiral Dewey's wonderful victory in reality captured for us Manila and it became evident from that time that the whole archipelago would come to us through force of conquest. Americans at first paid little attention and it was only on the apparent display of the intention of Germany to take a hand in the disposi-



SEÑOR SAGASTA, THE SPANISH PREMIER.

tion of the islands that it became evident that the Union did not intend to let go what it had captured. It seems evident to COMFORT that the feelings of the Americans have undergone a most remarkable change relative to expansion, and that a people who a year ago would not have dreamed of territorial acquisition are now looking on eagerly in foreign questions, and so far as the great East is concerned have now a personal interest in affairs. The pleasant feeling resulting from England's marked position taken in our favor throughout the war has caused us to read with deeper interest the affairs of the world in which she is interested. There will always be croakers and conservatives who would prevent the onward march of events. In the Revolution we had Tories; in the war of 1812, Anti-war party men; in the Mexican War, non-expansionists; in the Civil War, "Copperheads;" in the present war we find the same element again appearing in a new form and "agin the government." Having no responsibility it is unnecessary for this element to point out what should be done, but merely criticism of passing events. Trusting in God and His infinite wisdom, this great American Republic, standing as it always has for freedom and the rights of man, will go forward carrying to the heathen nations of the sea the sweet gospel of liberty for every man.

What the final effect on Spain will be, no person can at present prophesy. Throughout the war there has been discontent and rioting in every part of the kingdom; and only the feeling that there was hope to win against the United States has caused any united action on the part of the Spaniards. When the overwhelming success of the United States showed that there was no longer any hope for a successful issue for the kingdom, the spirit of the people gave way to a state of sullenness and despair. One thing was made certain, and that was that no faction or person would rob Sagasta of the discredit of the settlement of peace; and notwithstanding the frequent threats of the overthrow of the ministry nothing has been done, but all have awaited what is to them humiliating peace.

The entire kingdom is a hotbed of sedition, conspiracy and rebellion. The Carlists, who desire the monarchy continued but under the head of Don Carlos, are very active and have been found secreting arms and ammunition in all parts of the kingdom. Another and almost more formidable faction are the discontented army people, who feel that the treaty is signed without giving the army a chance to show its power. Such men as General Weyler and his followers have been preaching sedition and disloyalty ever since Weyler's return from Cuba. There is still another faction who desire the establishment of a republic, but a Spanish republic is so only in name. Aside from these warring factions is a very large majority of the people who desire nothing but peaceful methods to gain a livelihood and to improve trade. The merchants believe that the country is well enough off without colonies, and that being assured of a chance to trade in their late possessions, where the language used is entirely Spanish, gives them all the privileges needed, while the Government itself will have no expense to maintain the colonies.

It will be read with much interest by all Americans that already three of the fleet which were sent to the bottom by the guns of Admiral Dewey's fleet on the first of May, have been raised and proceeded to Hong Kong under their own steam, where they will be repaired and become part of the effective force of American ships in Eastern waters. The conditions for raising these ships were much more favorable than those surrounding the sunken ships of Admiral Cervera's fleet. In the former case, the ships were sunk in the waters of a bay where storms had no effect, and where it was only

easy work to raise them to the top; but on the coast of Cuba there are high tides, severe storms and a tremendous surf so that it is almost impossible to raise the ships. The raising of the Infanta Maria Teresa by Hobson was a wonderful work, and had she not met a storm on her way to Norfolk from Cuba she would have been rebuilt and been an object lesson to millions of Americans. Unfortunately she met a violent hurricane on her way, and to save their lives her crew was taken off by the accompanying tugs. It was believed at the time she sunk at once; but in her water-logged condition she was driven some forty or fifty miles to Cat Island and there beached herself. The examinations both by the Government and the wrecking parties show that she cannot be saved or even removed from where she is, and the wreckers on Bahama Keys have looted her of every available thing.

But a short time ago we related the enthusiasm of the West over President McKinley, during his visit to that section of the country. His recent Southern trip and the opening of the Peace Jubilee in Atlanta, have been the most significant ovations of modern times. The wild enthusiasm over himself, the soldiers and all pertaining to the Government, give most convincing proof of his popularity and the endorsement of his policy; but, what is better, the fuller proof that this is again a united nation and that all differences of the past have been blotted out by the present war. In the midst of this Col. Bryan resigned and again appears in the arena of National politics as a pronounced opponent of the administration and of any policy looking toward National expansion. It is believed that the silver issue being practically out of mind, Col. Bryan intends to lead his party against President McKinley with the expectation that the verdict of the American voters given in 1896 will be reversed in the election of 1900; and that in that campaign both he and President McKinley will again lead their respective parties.

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AGENTS wanted to sell Our Pinless Clothes Line.

A Perfect Line that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 100 B Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.

SEND US \$1.00 by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and mail perfect range you ever saw and equal to ranges that retail at \$50.00 to \$60.00. OUR SPECIAL PRICE, \$28.55, less the \$1.00 sent with order, pay the freight agent. Freight charges on this range will average \$1.50 for 500 miles; greater or lesser distances in proportion.

We Guarantee This The Highest Grade Steel Range on the Market, made from extra heavy Mason refined sheet steel, 2-gauges thicker than is usually used, wrought steel connection construction throughout, wrought steel oven plate, economizing metal making it the BEST BAKER MADE; has heavy duplex grates.

THIS ACME IS A 6-HOLE HIGH GLOSSY RESERVOIR STEEL RANGE 4-18 size, one 18x10x6 inches, six 12x10x6 inches, firebox, or wood, 20 inches. FINISH Highly enameled with best colors, edges, strips, in front and back of door, nickel oven door ornament, heavy nickel plated full length of top front and ends; large nickel plated towel rod, nickel bands on corners and bottom, all doors nickel plated, heavy nickel plated shield on reservoir, heavy nickel bands on high shelf and roll closet, nickel plated tea shelf, nickel plated pipe draft. No Handwarmer or Ashtray.

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A Pig Hunt in the Dark.
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

until we drove him out of it, when wounded perhaps by the shot, and held by Lockjaw, we might rush in and finish him off at close quarters. As the bunch of fern in which the animal lay was small, by firing into it, H. was almost certain to hit him before long; and the event quickly verified our anticipations, for scarcely had the sharp crack of the second shot rattled away into the hills, when out shambled the great beast, evidently hit hard. The glimmer of daylight was now in the sky, and in the half light an ugly customer looked the shaggy, grizzled, high-shouldered brute. The moment he appeared a little bull terrier, near whom he emerged, rushed at him. Alas! alas! poor little "Grip." One quick jerk sideways and upwards of the powerful snout and the wretched little dog is pitched aside, and lies howling with mingled rage and agony. "Hold him, Lockjaw!" No need for the order; Grip's diversion has given him a splendid chance. In a moment his iron jaws have closed like a rat trap on the ear of his prey, and every sinew in his muscular body is tense as wire rope as he sets his feet forward and tugs backward to hold the boar. But despite all his efforts the pig is surely and steadily dragging him into the creek, where, half choked with water, the dog will be forced to relinquish his hold. There is no time to be lost; the Malay and I rush forward, and about two feet from the edge of the water I get a swinging blow with my axe at the rough monster. Impeded by the dogs, who, though all useless in such a tussle except Lockjaw, are prancing and barking round the two real combatants—I miss my aim at the animal's skull, but the keen axe striking him just behind the shoulders, goes through to his backbone with a shock that staggers him. The next minute dogs and pig are struggling in the shallow water of the creek, Lockjaw still hanging on to his deadly grip. Dago quickly plunges in after them; the water is only up to his knees and soon the boar, faint with loss of blood and half drowned, receives the *coup de grace* from the Malay's keen and dexterous knife. With some difficulty Lockjaw is persuaded to loose his hold, and the huge carcass dragged out of the brook that is stained with its blood, H. and I drew a long breath as we gaze on our lifeless prize, on which prize, on which Dago calmly sits as he recovers his wind. Poor Dennis, whose knee, it turns out, is badly sprained, limps up, and vindictively shakes his fist at his unconscious and prostrate foe; while the native, as he surveys his fellow servant, grins evidently with an unholy joy at his rival's recent discomfiture, and his present lugubrious aspect. The beast is soon skinned and cleaned, the hide on some parts of his body being nearly an inch thick. As the sun rises we carry our dismembered victim up to the house, and the pork chops have soon become a reality instead of an expectation, and so ended "A pig hunt in the dark."

I may as well add that the poor little bull terrier, though we did all that experience had taught us for him, lingered but a few hours. The sharp tusk had ripped him up like a knife, from the beginning of the flank up to the hip joint, and nothing could probably have saved him. Lockjaw, too, received a nasty wound in the shoulder, which made him limp for many a day, and added another scar to the many similar decorations he already sported as evidence of his prowess.

Petroleum as a Fuel.

THE said that petroleum is fast coming into use as a fuel in the war-ships of the great naval Powers. In 1893 Italian war-ships carried a supply of astaki in addition to their ordinary fuel, while many of their torpedo boats were fitted to use it exclusively. England has made great strides in the use of petroleum as a fuel, while Russia comes in as a close second. The latter country, with its enormous supplies of petroleum, finds it an exceedingly cheap and convenient fuel.

The advantages of its use as a fuel are, first—a reduction in the weight and volume of combustible material required for a given horsepower in the engines; second, the oil can be stored, at least partially, below water out of the reach of the shells; third, there is no fear of spontaneous combustion of the oil, such as occasionally occurs with coal, and being free from sulphur the oil is not likely to deteriorate the boiler shells or tubes; fourth, the operation of "firing," so difficult with coal, is extremely easy with petroleum, and once the draught is properly adjusted there is no belching of flame from the funnel of the boat to warn the enemy of its whereabouts in a night attack. The furnace doors can be kept closed also, thus avoiding the rush of cold air on the boilers, and their consequent cooling off at a critical moment.

WOMEN OF NOTE.

The wife of Li Hung Chang is said to have two thousand gowns. She has a thousand ladies in waiting.

Duse, the famous actress, was born in a railway carriage between Padua and Venice—therefore cannot know the place of her birth.

Patti has a unique fan, upon which nearly all of the European sovereigns have written their autographs, and sometimes their sentiments in addition. The Czar wrote: "Nothing brings peace like your song."

Queen Victoria has had nine children, and has lost two; she has had forty-one grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren. This makes sixty-three descendants living, as eight of her grandchildren have died and two great-grandchildren.

The receipts of Queen Victoria from the government, yearly, amount to nearly \$3,000,000. Of this about \$600,000 goes for salaries to her household, \$60,000 for charities and bounties, \$96,000 for pensions and annuities and \$750,000 for miscellaneous expenses. She also receives \$450,000 a year from the duchy of Lancaster.

Queen Victoria's good health is without doubt due to her careful diet. She takes a light breakfast, a hearty luncheon and a substantial tea, and at nine in the evening has dinner, of which she eats very sparingly and only of the most nutritious food. When she is transacting business, Her Majesty takes a cup of beef tea between her breakfast and lunch, or a glass of milk with a beaten egg and a little sherry.

It is stated on good authority that of all the money earned by Bernhardt during her stage career, nothing remains to her but a modest dwelling on the Breton island. There she spends her days in crab-catching, fishing and shooting and forgets the words for a few months in each year. The chateau is a very primitive affair, having been at one time a fort guarded by forty men. Enormous boulders surround the house and the waves rage about them; no habitation is near, and yet the divine Sarah spends much of her time here, miles from her beloved Paris.

The personal attendants of the Czarina must be clever with the needle, to be of use when needed. The life of a lady about a court is not that of a butterfly, as some may imagine. She has to be able to read aloud well, and also to be proficient in cooking—as the every-day dinner menu is usually composed by a lady in waiting. The costume is of oriental magnificence, consisting of a white satin robe falling from the shoulders to the feet and fastened in front by buttons studded with gems. Over this a cloak of red velvet heavily embroidered with gold, is worn, and on the head rests the national Russian cap, which is called "kokoshnik," made of crimson velvet thickly studded with jewels, and from the crown of which hangs a veil of white tulle. The Czarina allows no smoking among her ladies in waiting.

A White Baboon.

WOST of us are familiar with polar bears and Arctic foxes, and such as saw the sacred, so-called "white" elephant of Burmah remember how sadly disappointed they were when in the presence of this mud-colored idol. Here, however, is another animal, a baboon, that justly may be called white. Both the skin and hair of this creature are absolutely white. It does not pale from the Arctic regions but from the Transvaal where it was captured, after an exciting chase, by some Trek Boers near the Murchison Range, Johannesburg, South Africa. The specimen is of the male species, and stands just four feet high; it is particularly restless and savage. Our picture is from a photograph taken at feeding-time.

Can you use three dollars every day? If so, see back page of this paper.

Half-past six is an excellent hour for a morning walk in Cuba.

BAD BLOOD

"CASCARETS do all claimed for them and are a truly wonderful medicine. I have often written to you the pleasure to take and at last have found it in Cascarets. Since taking them my blood has been purified and my complexion has improved wonderfully and I feel much better in every way." MRS. SALLIE E. SELLARS, Luttrell, Tenn.

CANDY CATHARTIC Cascarets
TRADE MARK REGISTERED
REGULATE THE LIVER.

Pleasant. Palatable. Potent. Taste Good. Do Good. Never Sicken. Weaken. or Gripe. 10c, 25c, 50c.

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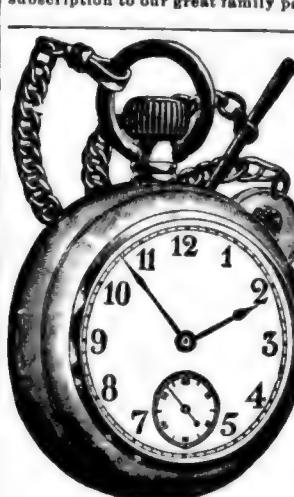
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1 lb. 10c. 1 lb. 25c. 1 lb. 50c. 1 lb. 75c. 1 lb. 100c.

DOUGLAS & BEARNE, WOMEN'S WIRE.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new All Wool Duster. Neat and convenient as so soft and clean that removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make highly finished wood handle firmly secured with Bright Aluminum Fervelle that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL. We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE! Wonderful Mystery. Fascinating! I teach you how to become a HYPNOTIST. Celebrated Instantaneous Method, which enables you to Hypnotize QUICK AS LIGHTNING. Discovered and taught only by me. EASY AND QUICKLY LEARNED. You can perform astonishing feats and produce fun at the hour. Greatly enjoyed great entertainments and make money. GRATUITOUS. EVERYTHING NEEDED. CURSES DISEASES AND BAD HABITS. Instantly gone at once. Success sure. I guarantee to teach you or forfeit \$100. Costs nothing to find out all about it. I send my large elegantly illustrated LESSON and full particulars absolutely FREE! Write to-day and tell me your purpose. Your Address. PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Hypnotist, Station 3, JACKSON, Miss.

BLOOD POISON

HAVE YOU Sore Throat, Pimples, Copper-colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores, Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write COOK READY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill. for proofs of cures. Capital, \$500,000. Worst case cured in 15 to 35 days. 100-page book free.

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CURED Sample Free. Dr. F. E. MAY, Bloomington, Ill.

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Instant relief and positive care. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KISSELER, 2, Box 787, Augusta, Maine.

YOUR FUTURE

LIFE COMPLETE IN LOVE, MARRIAGE AND RICHES. ALL DICTATED BY ASTROLOGY. Read TELL ME MY FUTURE. PROF. KENNEDY, WESTON, MASS.

WE ARE

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YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, listlessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? Is your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.

There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all or the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say \$25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charged paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address, G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY JESSIE JORDAN.

THE following truthful story, related to me by the principal actor, will serve to illustrate some of the dangers to which those brave and determined spirits, who pave the way where others may live in peace and safety, are exposed.

"About twenty years ago, a party of ex-mormons settled in one of those fertile valleys in the region of Denver. Much of the government land was unoccupied at that time, and a cattle company sent about five thousand head of cattle into this valley in charge of several cowboys.

"The lawless gang who had settled the region did not like to share the pasturage with any others, and they trumped up an accusation of horse-stealing against the cowboys, and a gang of them seized three of the boys and took them to a place where a Justice's office occupied one end of a building, and a saloon the other, upon pretence of giving them a trial.

"Previous to taking their prisoners to the Justice, they rode up to the tent occupied by the boys, filled it with bullet holes and stamped the cattle, which scattered in every direction over the mountains and through the valleys and canyons.

"I had been invited to join in the pursuit of the alleged horse thieves, but knowing the character of the men engaged in it, I declined, saying I wanted nothing to do with vigilance committees; but when I heard that they had captured the boys, I requested them to do nothing rash or unjust, but to give them a fair trial.

"My entreaties were received with derision, and before morning the three prisoners were no more, and those remaining fled from the country and never returned. For several months the herds were allowed to remain where they were, but at the end of that time the men who had been so active in punishing the alleged crime, started out and gathered up the stock, and men who had never owned a hoof in their lives from this time became cattle men.

"I had knowledge of all these circumstances, but I was no party to the illegal proceedings and had protested against them. These facts, aided perhaps by the memory of "Mountain Meadows," made them feel unsafe while I lived and ominous threats and accusations frequently reached me.

"At length I sent word that upon a certain day I would appear at the office of the Justice, and requested that the accusation be put in legal form and a fair trial given me. At the appointed time I went there, taking five trusty companions with me. We waited till nearly dark, but not one of my accusers appeared.

"We were about ten miles from home and concluded to stay where we were till morning. Some of the boys began to patronize the bar pretty freely, and at length a young fellow employed about the establishment beckoned me to come out. I followed him a short distance from the house and he said excitedly:

"Hardy, don't let those boys drink another drop. That whiskey is drugged, and just as sure as you come under the influence of it, you are all dead men! I was right here when those other boys were executed, and they were all in a helpless state of unconsciousness when it was done."

"Thanking him for his timely warning, I called the boys out and cautioned them, and they all quit drinking to the apparent displeasure of the bar-tender.

"We retired to the other room and prepared to pass the night together. Four of our party lay down upon the floor to sleep, while with a trusty comrade I prepared to keep a vigilant watch.

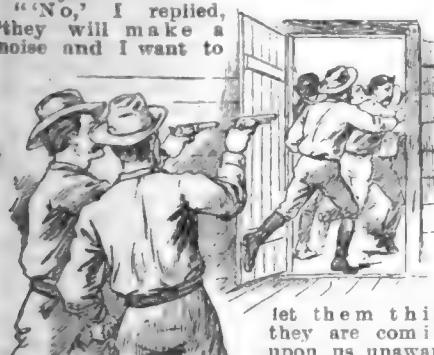
"It must have been about three o'clock in the morning when all was silent save the regular breathing of the sleepers, that I heard the sound of stealthy footsteps outside. The light had been purposely turned low, and I cautiously approached the window and looked out into the darkness. By the dim light of the stars I saw a number of men step from the shelter of the trees and stealthily approach the house.

"They paused in the shadow of the building and held a suppressed conversation.

"They've come," I whispered to my companion.

"I know it," he answered. "Shall I wake the boys?"

"No," I replied, "they will make a noise and I want to



Let them think they are coming upon us unawares. Are you ready?"

"Yes," he an-

swered hoarsely, but although I could detect the tremor of excitement in his voice, I knew that he was no coward.

"I could tell by the steady shuffling of muffled feet that the villains had removed their boots and were fast filling the adjoining room. There was neither lock nor bar upon the intervening door, and its only fastening, beside an ordinary latch, was a bench, which we had placed against it.

"I heard a whispered consultation, followed by the uncoiling of a rope, and our hearts beat audibly, as with every nerve strung to the utmost tension we listened to the ominous preparation, and knew that every second brought us nearer to a desperate encounter against fearful odds.

"At length some one lifted the latch and cautiously pushed against the door.

"The time had come, and in an instant I had

emptied my six-shooters into it, and a scene of the wildest excitement and confusion followed. "Suddenly startled from their slumbers, the boys sprang to their feet with excited exclamations, demanding the cause of the uproar in the adjoining room, where the cowardly mob were struggling to reach the outside door, tumbling over one another, uttering loud and angry curses in their fear and confusion, and blocking the way in their disorderly retreat, while their excitement was every instant increased by the bullets which we sent whizzing through the door.

"Open the door and let us out among you, you cowardly pack of midnight assassins! Show your faces and let us see who you are!" shouted my companion, emphasizing every sentence with a revolver shot in the direction of the retreating desperadoes.

"In less than five minutes from the firing of the first bullet, all was silent save the excited breathing of our own men; the villains had fled from the house and sought refuge in the darkness, but with what further intentions we did not know.

"Boys, we've had a visit from Judge Lynch and his jury; what they'll do next is impossible to tell," I said as the last sound died away.

"We know what we'll do if they return," was the decisive reply, and with weapons ready for instant use, we waited for the dawn.

"But our enemies came not to fight; they expected to find defenseless men, and they made no further demonstration.

"When are you going to try it again?" I asked the bar-keeper after daylight appeared and we stepped from the room where we had passed the night.

"The face of the man was pale with fear and guilt, but in trembling tones, he protested his innocence.

"Don't stand there and lie! you mean, despicable sneaking cowardly coyote," said one of the boys indignantly, "but tell us the truth. What did they agree to give you to drug us past all power of resistance, when they came with their murderous intentions?"

"The man shook like a leaf, and still protested his innocence.

"Are you willing that we should serve you to a dish of the same sauce that you intended for us?" asked his questioner.

"The villain sank upon his knees and begged for mercy.

"Get up! you contemptible wretch!" I said. "We are no cowards to murder a man when we are six to one—even if he does deserve it. But I tell you to be careful hereafter, and we left him to reflect upon his own situation.

"This was only the beginning of my persecution. Members of that gang were upon my track for years, and may be yet for all that I know."

\$3.00 a day sure—see back page of this paper for full particulars.

D. W. Thompson, of Santa Barbara, Cal., has a saddle which is valued at \$4,000. The silver and gold used in its decoration are alone worth \$250.

Lord Dufferin, now over seventy years old, has set about the acquisition of a knowledge of the Persian language.

Trial Package Free!

If any reader, suffering from rheumatism, will write to me, I will send them free of cost a trial Package of a simple and harmless remedy which cured me and thousands of others among them cases of over 40 years standing. This is an honest remedy that you can test before you part with your money. Address, JOHN A. SMITH, 754 Summerfield Church Building, Milwaukee, Wis.

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BICYCLE FREE OR CASH TO ANY ONE distributing my soaps, etc. I trust you. F. Parker, 277 E. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

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AND SEND TO US AND we will send you this gun by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if found equal to price, we will deduct our price and the greatest bargain you ever saw, pay the express agent our Special Offer Price, \$12.95, less the \$1.00, or \$11.95 and express charges.

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BREKKIN' LOADER, top snap brace, matted extension rib, case bound in leather, mounted on a fine wood stock. Acker twist barrels, highly finished, no bounding bar looks. Inlaid pistol grip stock, fancy rubber butt plate, choke barrels, a perfect shooter, 10, 12 or 16 gauge, 4½ to 10 pounds. Write for free Gun Catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., INC., CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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Need Suffer

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This is the most simple and effective arrangement for shelling corn ever made. There are only 6 pieces in the entire machine. Main frame, 2 shafts, 1 shaft, 1 tensioning screw, 1 screw, 1 box.

It holds the corn in the box on which it is mounted, and the cob outside. It has a perfect tension that can be adjusted instantly, will shell all sized ears, pop corn to the largest, southern dent.

Weight 12 lbs. Seat to any ad. address. We freight on receipt of \$9.00 extra. For all kinds of Corn Shellers, send for our Free Agricultural Implement Catalogue.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

HILL'S RHEUMATISM AND GOUT CURE: greatest of remedies; one bottle cures you. HILL MEDICINE CO., 38 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y. Send for circular.

\$25 REWARD for a case of Constipation that Newton's Tea will not cure. 25c. a package. NEUROTIC MED. CO., Hornellsville, N. Y.

Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.



MIZPAH PESSARY. An unexcelled Uterine Supporter. The centered tube holds it in position, and it cannot become misplaced. It is soft, light, and comfortable, easily placed in position, and just as easily removed. Ask your Druggist, or send for descriptive circular to WALTER F. WARE, 312 Arch St., Phila.

TEA SET FREE 56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautiful, this handsome China tea set & one dozen tea-spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly send us your name and address, and we will mail our offer of a \$6.00 tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land to write and receive the special tea set for selling our Pills. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. E, 30 WEST 19th ST., NEW YORK CITY.



TEA SET FREE 56 PIECES.

fully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome China tea set & one dozen tea-spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly send us your name and address, and we will mail our offer of a \$6.00 tea set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land to write and receive the special tea set for selling our Pills. AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, Dept. E, 30 WEST 19th ST., NEW YORK CITY.



"I had indigestion and dyspepsia, the doctors said, but I do not know what was the matter. I only know that I almost suffered death, especially when at a delicate period, my bowels were bad, and I had such pains in my back of a morning I could hardly get out of bed. When I had taken Ripans Tabules for two weeks, as directed, I was a new person. These are facts, and my friends can say the same."

The above words are from a letter written by a young lady of Holton, La., whose cousin recommended the Tabules.

A new style packet containing THE RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—for FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (100 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

SILVER CAKE BASKET



FREE FREE

We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have but 12 of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

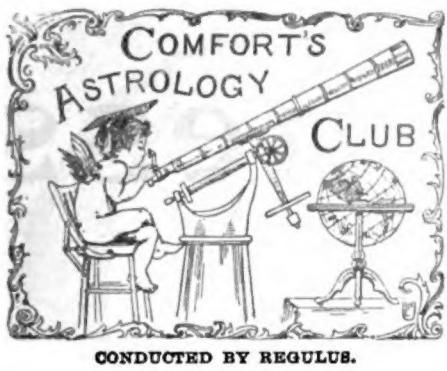
HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE! The Comical Mirror.

A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position stout people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.

GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us 12 cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for 27 cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only 76 cents we will



Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



AT the Lunation or New Moon which occurs at about 23 minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning of the 10th of February, 1899, the first decanate of the celestial sign Capricorn will be ascending, bearing

Venus just on the horizon, while the last degrees of Libra will be on the meridian. The conjunction of the luminaries occurs in the 2nd house, having the benevolent rays of Saturn in the 12th and Neptune in the 6th house. Herschel is in the 11th; Mercury is near the 2nd cusp under the favorable rays of Herschel, his disposer, but poorly aspected by Jupiter; the warlike Mars is in the 7th retrograde and in his fall, while Jupiter, the great benefic, is elevated near the south meridian.

The promises of the figure, on the whole, are much better than usual for this lunation, though there are some adverse features to be noted. Mars indicates some dissensions and enmities with threats of warlike actions in our southwestern possessions in which the naval forces may be called into activity, and there is probability of some bad eruptive disease like small pox in those regions likely to affect our soldiers and sailors. Unusual precaution should be had in this respect by the governing authorities both at home and abroad. There will be some unusual excitement in Congress in discussions involving the finances and the expenditures of the nation. The benefits holding the important angles of the scheme indicate the popularity of the Chief Executive and his administration and the thrift of the government under his rule; also the prosperity of the masses of our people. We will have some extremely cold weather in the lunation, probably in the last days of February and from the 4th to 8th of March. There will be some disorder in some prison from which treacherous conduct aiming at a jail delivery is to be apprehended. Our government should be on the alert against the machinations of secret enemies operating in the interest of Spain. This latter country is still sadly under the ban and is in further danger of disruption and revolution. There will be some very disastrous fires in New York City and some unusual harm from explosions, and fire and steam. Persons born about the 8th of January, 9th of April, 12th of July and 13th of October, of past years, will need to be watchful against attacks from small pox or other eruptive diseases; should carefully avoid indulging in stimulants and pay more than ordinary heed to the digestion.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1899.

FEBRUARY 1—Wednesday. This month begins with an excellent day for the vigorous prosecution of all general business; it is especially recommended for important transactions as to houses and land and for dealings with farmers and those trading in farm products. The night hours are contentious and prompt caution for the avoidance of quarrels and accidents from fire and explosion; thieves are likely to be unusually active during the hours between sunset of the 1st and the dawn of the 2nd, and many of them come to grief in their misdoings.

2—Thursday. Quite fortunate in the forenoon for transactions with artists and musicians, workers in silk, jewelers, tailors, dressmakers and milliners; and the day generally should be fully employed in pushing all honorable transactions; have money dealings in the afternoon, when also buy merchandise for trade, open new stores and deal with persons of station and wealth.

3—Friday. Attend to financial matters in the morning hours but do not apply to any public officer or any person in authority over thee for any kind of favor during the middle hours of the day; as the noon hours are passed, however, give all thine energies to business; especially such as pertains to manufacture or construction; perform chemical experiments; deal in electrical goods, drugs, machinery and sharp instruments.

4—Saturday. A very fortunate day for the literary pursuits and for dealings with persons engaged in clerical capacities, also teachers, students, surveyors, civil engineers, and mathematicians generally; give preference to the forenoon for business concerned with the mechanical pursuits and trades; travel, trade in cattle and metals and deal with chemists, physicians, military men and cutlers; the noon and the afternoon are the best parts of the day for dealings with printers, publishers, stationers and real estate trades; the mind will be unusually active and ideas clothe themselves readily and tastefully; urge correspondence, make contracts, especially such as affect legal and educational matters, hire help and push all matters of trade and business.

5—Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature.

6—Monday. The unpropitious moments of this day occur before the noon hour when business of all kinds should be transacted conservatively, and when real estate dealings are best deferred; as the day advances, however, conditions are much improved and special activity enlarged in conducting matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of adornment, apparel and the beautiful and elegant in life; seek audience with ladies, and expect to derive more than usual pleasure or entertainment from the drama.

7—Tuesday. Be at work early on this day; solicit money advantages, buy goods for trade and urge the commercial pursuits to their utmost; dealings in stock and money transactions result favorably to those whose natures also promise fairly at this time; do not waste a moment, but inaugurate as many of the new ventures in life as possible; the evening hours are less to be depended upon.

8—Wednesday. Be master of the tongue during the morning hours lest quarrels and unpleasantness come; do not have any surgical operations performed nor should any favorable result be expected from dealings with persons in the manufacturing walks of life; fires and accidents are to be guarded against; the latter part of the day is best.

9—Thursday. Hold fast the purse strings during the forenoon of this day when no purchases should be made of merchandise for trade; beware of speculation, giving thine energies to the disposal of what thou hast for trade rather than making new ventures. The strictly literary pursuits are more favored than others and mental efforts, though inclined towards the eccentric and novel will be likely to be more than usually effective.

10—Friday. Apply to public officials or thine employer for favor or advantages; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, wood, lead, lumber, wool and grain, and, with discretion, in mining and railroad stocks; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with printers, publishers, and persons generally in fiduciary capacities; have dealings with the laboring classes, and make beginnings in business pertaining to real estate and the agricultural pursuits.

11—Saturday. One of the excellent days in which all important undertakings should be pushed vigorously; seek money favors at the hands of banks and persons of wealth; important enterprises pertaining to the elegant occupations or polite arts are favorably begun at this time and the day is also fortunate for purchase or sale of wearing apparel and all fancy and ornamental goods.

12—Sunday. Not promising for a Sabbath day, inducing physical rest and quiet rather than exertion or mental efforts.

13—Monday. Defer thy purchases of wearing apparel until a more favorable time and look out in the pursuit of pleasure or recreation that extraneous drains are not made upon the purse; the afternoon encourages thee to crowd all literary and commercial undertakings, excepting dealings in the artistic and decorative wares; urge correspondence and crowd all mental efforts.

14—Tuesday. A very fortunate day for agricultural matters and for having any manner of dealings with landlords or in houses or lands, mining properties, lumber, coal or wool. During the middle hours of this day applications to employers and persons in authority for preferment or advantage are likely to meet with very favorable consideration.

15—Wednesday. Let the musician, artist, and all in the finer avocations of life begin this day with its earliest moments and labor diligently until the evening, dealing also in articles of dress, adornment or decoration; taking principal steps in all business of these classes as early in the morning as possible; the evening bids thee be watchful of the purse and guarded against thefts or an extravagant inclination in thy purchases; it will be better if thy means is not invested at this time in any new undertaking.

16—Thursday. Be cautious in the use of the pen in the early forenoon, when commercial contracts are best deferred; sign no deeds; engage no servants nor expect much progress or advantage from any of the literary undertakings; as the noon is passed the moments increase in energy and enterprise and activity is invited in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travellers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

17—Friday. This day is peculiarly adverse for any beginning involving matters of a public nature or dealing with government officers or prominent persons in large corporations; have care to avoid disputes and controversies and keep the tongue well under control, as haste in most any venture on this day would be likely to do more harm than at any other times.

18—Saturday. Urge business of all kinds during all of this day, preference being given to such as depends upon mental labor for its best success. It is especially favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies. Let all classes of contracts affecting legal matters and all important movements for intellectual improvement and educational interests be now made. Merchants and tradesmen are particularly favored.

19—Sunday. An excellent day for improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary and scientific productions; the mind inclines rather more towards the sombre and reflective and the contemplation of the grand or sublime in nature and art than towards the flowery and ornate.

20—Monday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and for money transactions generally.

21—Tuesday. This day is emphatically to be avoided for wooing or wedding; the fair sex should remember that dissensions and controversies threaten the matrimonial engagements now effected and the time is especially conducive to quarrels between lovers; be very cautious in handling fire and chemicals; surgical operations are extremely dangerous to both operator and patient; let the strictest temperance be exercised in all kinds of pleasure seeking; beware of the suddenly awakened appetite for stimulants, for these passing days are dangerous in this respect; it is apprehended that there will occur notorious harm or violence to some member of the fair sex that will reflect the viciousness of the existing conditions; there will be marked increase of intemperance and unusual aggravation of digestive troubles and kidney weakness. The above suggestions are peculiarly applicable to persons born about the 8th of January and April, and the 12th of July and October, of past years.

22—Wednesday. Let this day be improved for literary pursuits and engagements of minor character and importance, but steps of much magnitude are best postponed for a short season.

23—Thursday. A passive day in which local conditions contribute little impulse; improve vigorously the benevolent indications of thy nativity.

24—Friday. Have dealings on this day, especially in the early hours, with builders, plumbers, farmers, dyers, and all persons engaged in the laborious, and dirty avocations, when also seek the society and ask favors of aged persons; purchase coal, lead, iron, grain, wool and lumber.

25—Saturday. On this day, do thou beware of litigation and contentions, for this is a day of strife and discord; engage no servants, travel not, and be sure to "make haste slowly" in thy respective avocations; be very careful if compelled to be about machinery or electrical apparatus and in the handling of chemicals, firearms, hot liquids and fire; typhoid and respiratory troubles are more dangerous at this time and the best care should now be given to persons whose nativities render them peculiarly susceptible in this respect. The suggestions are appropriate also for the majority of persons born about the 24th of February, 26th of May, 29th of August and 26th of November, of past years.

26—Sunday. The day is a happy one until the afternoon hours, being particularly conducive to enjoyment from communion with the poet, musician and artist; extemporaneous preaching should abound in metaphor and elegant though eccentric sentiment and the musical portion of religious worship should be peculiarly happy and effective; the afternoon is disappointing and unsatisfactory.

27—Monday. This day encourages dealings with railway officials, public officers and persons in authority in large corporations, also for the study of uncommon subjects, patents, trade marks, etc.

28—Tuesday. Use the forenoon of this day for entering into important ventures in the literary world and dealing with booksellers, publishers, printers, lawyers and all ingenious persons; the night hours are evil and caution all against quarrels and disputes; see that no chances are taken of fires and explosions.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES. I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. MRS. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

Depression is never the normal condition of healthy men; it is always the evidence of disease.

FREE TO INVALID LADIES. A safe, simple home treatment that cured me after years of suffering with uterine troubles, displacements, leucorrhœa, etc., sent free to ladies with full instructions how to use it. Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.

Ladies—Send to Mrs. E. Wales, Toledo, O., for free package of Clover Blossom. Cures all female diseases.

STRicture CURED AT HOME

When we say "cured," we mean no patching up, but a positive, never to return cure. Our treatment is by a New Method, painless, and requires NO SURGICAL OPERATION no loss of time, and is used secretly at home. We have never failed in over 5,000 cases, and are as sure to cure stricture, and prostatic enlargement as the sun is to rise. Proofs and sealed book free. EMPIRE MED. CO., 88 Smith Bldg., Boston, Mass.

SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad out and send to us and we will send you a fine Fanning Mill by freight, C.O.D., subject to examination. Examining it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to \$25.00, pay the freight agent. Our Special Price, \$9.90, less the \$1.00, or \$8.90 and freight charges. The mill weighs 120 pounds, and the freight will be about 70 cents for 500 miles, greater or shorter distances in proportion. **THE MILL IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE:** more wind, more like, takes more screen and will do more and better work than any mill. Will separate wild seed from wheat in one operation, will separate the foul seeds, such as mustard, pigeon grass, etc., from the grain once going through the mill. It is a perfect cleaner of clover and timothy. Made of the very best material. We furnish it with one wire wheat, three sieves, wheat screens, wheat grader, corn and oat sieve and barley sieve. Capacity, 90 bush. per hour. \$9.90 is our special offer price. Order at once. Write for Agricultural Implement Catalogue.

Address: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

ARE YOU ONLY ONE-HALF A MAN

A Full Five Days Treatment
of Professor Jules Laborde's Marve-
lous French Vital Restorative

CALTHOS
SENT FREE TO MEN
BY SEALED MAIL

No C. O. D. or Deposit Scheme.

CALTHOS is now recognized by all intelligent physicians as the only perfect, permanent and unfailing cure for Spermorrhœa, Impotency and Varicocele yet discovered. It is a preparation of the French scientist, Prof. Jules Laborde, the world's greatest specialist in nervous diseases.

It was Prof. Laborde who first discovered, and proved to the satisfaction of the French Academy by the record of 855 cases, that these dread diseases are due to nervous debility, and that no treatment which failed to recognize that fact and strike at the root of the trouble could do more than give temporary relief.

CALTHOS strikes at the root. It cures the disease and removes the cause. It is the only remedy known to science that will absolutely cure nervous debility. It has for years been used as a specific in the French and German Armies. It has a record of a vast number of perfect cures in every part of Europe. It is duplicating its foreign success in this country.

It is controlled in this country solely by The Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, and is sold under their positive guarantee, signed and acknowledged, that it will effect a perfect cure.

Every man who suffers from sexual weakness, premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, varicocele, shrunken parts, impotency, or any of the other awful results of early abuses, excesses, or overwork and nervous strain, can be cured if he will avail himself of the **CALTHOS** treatment.

The time to do so is now. Neither **CALTHOS** nor anything else on earth can cure you after epilepsy sets in with the resulting consumption and insanity which follow naturally in the train of nervous debility and sexual diseases.

So remarkable has been the success of **CALTHOS** and so certain is The Von Mohl Co. of its ability to effect a cure in every case that, in order to give every sufferer in the country an opportunity to learn just what this remedy can do for him, it has decided to give every one who chooses to ask for it, the benefit of five days' FREE treatment.

Understand that this is no C. O. D. or Deposit



Scheme—it is absolutely free. Understand, too, that The Von Mohl Co. is not a new nor an irresponsible concern, but is the biggest and most trustworthy house of the kind in America. This statement you can easily verify.

The **CALTHOS** remedy is sent in plain package; there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. With it comes a full treatise telling you in plain language just what to do and just what the remedy will do for you.

This offer can of course remain open but a short time. It affords the greatest opportunity ever offered to the man whose condition forces him to look upon the future with dismay and anxiety, and to the man whom disreputable quacks, fake remedies and appliances have left in a worse condition than before.

Irresponsible advertisers mislead thousands by fake testimonials. A moment's thought will convince you that no one would allow his name to be printed in connection with this class of diseases. The Von Mohl Co. has received a large number of astonishing testimonials from those who have been completely cured by **CALTHOS** after all else had failed—after doctors had given them up and so-called "remedies" had been tried in vain, but of course it does not print, nor pretend to print, communications of so delicate and private a nature.

Five days **CALTHOS** treatment will place you on the highroad to health, manly strength and happiness—and it's free for the asking. Ask to-day. Address THE VON MOHL CO., 430 B, Cincinnati, Ohio. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

Rubber Goods of every description. Cat's free. Edwin Mercer & Co., Toledo, O.

BED WETTING CURED. TRIAL FREE. Mrs. R. HOWAN, Milwaukee, Wis.

YOUR BUST ENLARGED Six Inches. Failure Impossible. 1000 Testimonials. CURUR MEDICINE CO., Dent. AS, 55 State St., Chicago

Stricture CURED while You Sleep. 8,000 cured in one year. Valuable Illustrated Treatise Free. St. James Associates, Dept. 57 Bond Hill, O.

50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cent, and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

WEAK MEN
of all ages who are nervous, and who lack power, energy and vim, can be quickly and permanently cured by the new powerful & scientific remedy LEONIN (Lion Vigor). Gives man the strength of a Lion. Vital Losses, Impotency, Lost Manhood, Varicocele, etc. (no matter how caused) cannot exist after LEONIN is used. We will mail our book and a Box of Leonin FREE postpaid in a plain sealed package, to all men who write for it. No C. O. D. Prescription or Deposit Scheme. No embarrassing questions asked. Costs you nothing to try it. Ad. in strict confidence, THE LEONIN CO., B 12, ST. LOUIS, MO.

RUBBER GOODS of all kinds. Special Novelties. Cat's free. HAZELTINE CO., Toledo, O.

RUBBER Goods and necessary specialties for women and children. Agents 48 pages cat. free. VENUS MFG. CO., Chicago.

A BIG OFFER Instant Relief. Cure in 15 days. Never returns. I will gladly send to any sufferer in a plain sealed envelope **FREE** a prescription with full directions for a quick, private cure for Lost Manhood, Night Losses, Nervous Debility, Small Weak Parts, Varicocele, etc. G. B. Wright, Music Dealer, Box 1235, Marshall, Mich.

WEAK MEN Instant Relief. Cure in 15 days. Never returns. I will gladly send to any sufferer in a plain sealed envelope **FREE** a prescription with full directions for a quick, private cure for Lost Manhood, Night Losses, Nervous Debility, Small Weak Parts, Varicocele, etc. G. B. Wright, Music Dealer, Box 1235, Marshall, Mich.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
WILLING TO WORK.
\$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off; they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Brazil Silver is the best metal ever discovered for making spoons and forks, but it is not hard and springy enough for knives. First-class knives can only be made of finely tempered steel and plated with pure silver. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Anyone who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35 cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2 cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2 cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2 cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30 cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30 cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6 cents each
One Sugar Shell	25 cents each
One Butter Knife	25 cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25 cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only 85 cents, which is 1.98 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-third of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even eighty-five cents, and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the eighty-five cents, cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent eighty-five cents and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)
Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

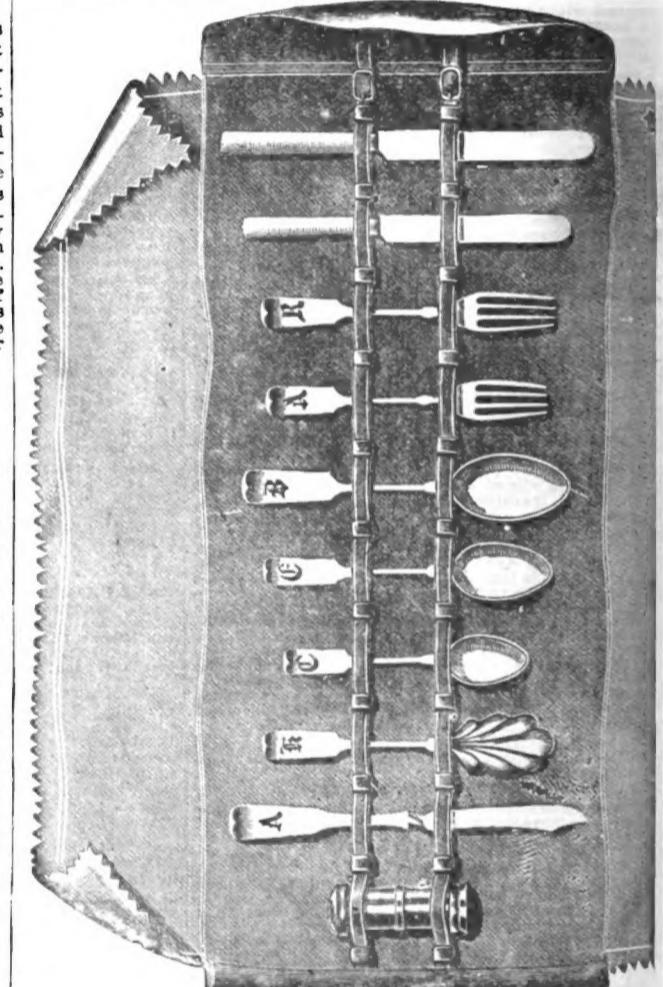
ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the eighty-five cents required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the eighty-five cents. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,
Box 9800, DETROIT, MICH.